



Fly the red flag, but not upside down please

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong police are being tough on how to raise the red flag, the national flag of the enclave, new communist leaders ensure they don't fly it upside down, and a new report says the flag last week was not flown at all.

Good news, Mr. O'Leary — your cow didn't do it

CHICAGO (AP) — A Chicago court has approved a settlement of a lawsuit filed by a woman who says she was sexually abused by a priest in 1971.

Candle in the Wind chimes while Christmas carols are being played

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Los Angeles court has ordered a man to pay \$50,000 in damages to a woman who says she was sexually abused by a priest in 1971.

Make a difference

ALLIANCE

RELATIONSHIP

Iraq protests at opposition meeting in London

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq accused Britain Wednesday of interfering in its internal affairs by hosting a meeting of the Iraqi opposition with U.S. and British diplomats. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz sent a letter to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to protest at Britain's "aggressive policy which is contrary to the U.N. charter," the official news agency INA said. "The British Foreign Office has officially recognised that it seeks to meddle in the internal affairs of Iraq, to overthrow the government and harm its security and sovereignty," he wrote. "The U.N. should assume its responsibility and oppose such illegal acts," said Mr. Aziz. "Iraq has the right to defend its sovereignty and the right to choose its own political regime." The Foreign Office held the meeting on Sept. 29.

Seven Palestinians escape Israeli jail

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Seven Palestinians escaped from an Israeli prison before dawn Wednesday, prompting a police manhunt, security sources said. The prisoners, who were jailed for smuggling merchandise, sawed through the window bars of their cell in Telmond prison in northern Israel, the sources said. Authorities were alerted by another prisoner who at the last minute was too afraid to join the prison break. He notified prison officials soon after his colleagues escaped.

Militant Israeli fined \$60,000 for attack on Labour MP

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A Jerusalem court has ordered a right-wing Jewish radical to pay \$60,000 in damages to Labour Party Deputy Yael Dayan for throwing scalding tea at her a year ago, officials said Wednesday. Israel Lederman was also ordered to pay for the legal expenses and medical costs of Dayan, daughter of the late defence minister Moshe Dayan, court officials said. Lederman tossed a cup of scalding tea at Dayan in October 1996 as she visited Hebron. Lederman had already been sentenced to three years in prison over the attack but Dayan returned to court to seek financial damages. Lederman had already served a prison term for murdering a Palestinian.

Fifty-eight journalists killed in Algeria in four years

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Fifty-eight journalists have been killed in Algeria since May 1993, the group Reporters Without Frontiers said Tuesday. Various armed Islamist groups have claimed responsibility for most of the killings, but the Algerian government may be behind some of them, the group said in a statement. The international association said the first reporter killed was Tahar Djaout on May 26, 1993. Several months before, Djaout, 39, had founded a weekly called Ruptures that opposed dialogue with Islamist groups. The most recently killed was Aziz Bouabdallah, 24, who worked for Al Alan Al Siyassi paper. Bouabdallah was reportedly taken from his residence April 12 by four members of the Algerian security forces and killed two days later under torture, the association said.

Iran to deliver Iraqi MIG-21s to anti-Taleban forces — paper

DUBAI (AFP) — Iran is preparing to supply the anti-Taleban forces of ousted Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani with nearly 20 MIG-21 fighter planes belonging to Iraq, the Arabic newspaper Al Hayat said Wednesday. The London-based daily said the MIG-21s were among the planes which Iraq flew to safety in Iran at the start of the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait. "Tehran has painted the planes in the Afghan colours," Al Hayat said, adding that Afghan forces had been using MIG-21s since their battle against the Soviet occupation in the 1980s. Iraq says it flew 115 fighter planes and 33 other aircraft to Iran in January 1991 to protect them from U.S.-led allied raids. But Tehran insists it has 22 Iraqi aircraft which could be returned to Baghdad at the U.N.'s request.

Jordan Times
An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز
مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الراي"

Volume 22 Number 6657

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Price: Jordan 200 fils

King reveals letter on possible dialogue with Hamas sent to Netanyahu 48hrs before assault

Netanyahu headed damage containment delegation to Jordan, was met by Crown Prince

BY Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday disclosed that he had sent a message to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu offering mediation between Israel and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, two days before the Mossad attempted to assassinate Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al.

"It's too secret that 48 hours prior to the painful incident, I sent a message to the Israeli prime minister telling him that there was a possibility to discuss holding a dialogue between them and Hamas to stop the episode of horror and violence," the King said during a rally at Al Hussein Youth City yesterday.

The proposed talks were to include "discussing all issues that should be dealt with. I told them that I was ready to engage in such an endeavour because of our



His Majesty King Hussein informs the nation of the details related to the attempt on the life of Hamas leader, Khaled Misha'al, by Israeli agents (Photo by Youssef Allan)

pain, my pain and the pain of every Jordanian man and woman towards the loss of any child's life, any woman's life, any innocent person's life.

"But it was said, however, that this letter did not reach on time."

Hamas, which opposes the 1993 Oslo accords between the Palestine Lib-

eration Organisation (PLO) and Israel, has repeatedly said that it will not negotiate with Israel. However, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the founder of Hamas, who was released by Israel after 8 years in prison this week, has taken a much softer stand towards Israel suggesting that a ceasefire against civilians is possible if Israel was to stop measures against Palestinian civilians.

The King said that as far as Jordan is concerned, if Mr. Misha'al was killed in the assassination attempt, his death would have brought an end to the peace process in the Middle East.

Referring to President Bill Clinton but without naming him, the King said that he made a telephone call to "a very important international personality, which played a role from the very beginning in the efforts (to overcome the problem)."

"I told him that the fate of

the peace process is dependent on the life of this Jordanian (Khaled Misha'al)," the King said.

The King said that during his talks and contacts to solve the issue, "our utmost priority was to save the life of this Jordanian (Mr. Misha'al) and that was achieved. The responsible party (Israel) submitted all the information it could, without which it would have been difficult to

(Continued on page 2)

King calls on citizens to elect those able to serve Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday called on Jordanians to take part in the upcoming Nov. 4 elections and to choose the best among the candidates to represent them in the 13th Parliament.

"We are on the verge of new parliamentary elections. The previous parliament has extended all it could and shouldered its responsibility, which we appreciate," the King said in a speech to former members of parliament, ministers and notables in Amman.

"I wish that all will participate in the new stage of our life with responsibility... to choose those who are the best to represent them in the new House," the King said.

"We are at the beginning of the path of democracy and Shura that we have chosen. The path that makes all of us a united family bearing our responsibility together," the King added.

The King urged Jordanians to take into consideration the "country's interests... not the narrow interests... to choose the best, the more aware and those who are able to serve the country," he added.

Arafat-Netanyahu summit offers 'new beginning' but no miracles

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The State Department on Wednesday said no date had been set for a second round of Israeli-Palestinian talks expected to take place here at the end of the month.

State Department spokesman James Rubin said the two parties must focus on outstanding issues in the interim accord on Palestinian autonomy, including building an airport and a sea port in Gaza and freedom of movement between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Between now and the end of the month, contacts will be maintained "through various channels," including telephone, Mr. Rubin said.

A second round of high-level talks between Israelis and Palestinians in Washington had been expected to open October 13.

He said the meeting (Continued on page 12)

Canada wants Israeli assurance before ambassador's comeback

OTTAWA (R) — Canadian Ambassador David Berger will not go back to Israel until Canada gets an assurance that Israel will not use Canadian passports in operations by their Mossad secret agents, Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy said on Tuesday.

"Let's come to a clear understanding that it will not be done again. I want some satisfaction on that before Mr. Berger will return," Mr. Axworthy told reporters, referring to an attempted assassination in Jordan by agents using Canadian documents.

"If we can't get satisfaction we'll consider what other options are open to us," Mr. Axworthy said.

Minister Axworthy met in Ottawa with Israeli Ambassador David Sultan on Tuesday and agreed that he would send Claude Lavardure, Canada's assistant deputy minister for the Middle East, to Israel at the end of the week to pursue the matter.

Canada voiced outrage at the use of its passports in the Sept. 25 attack on a leader of Hamas and recalled Mr. Berger from Israel.

It received an expression of regret from Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy on Oct. 6 — 11 days after the event.

Some Canadian commentators have suggested the regret was more over the fact that the Israelis got caught than being sorry for having used the passports of another country.

But Mr. Axworthy said of Mr. Levy: "He said they deeply regretted their involvement and their attitude. To me, I take that as an apology."

The Mossad agents were caught trying to murder Hamas politburo chief Khaled Misha'al which has been accused of responsibility for bombings in Israel.

Mr. Axworthy said Canadian officials had now clearly established that the passports used by the Mossad agents were counterfeits printed and forged in Israel, even if they used the names of real Canadians.

"We know that not only the photos were phony and the signatures forged but also the passport itself was a total counterfeit," he said.

This should clear Canada of any complicity in providing Mossad with documents, he added.

In addition to the two that were caught, there were other individuals the Jordanians were seeking in connection with the attack.

One carried the passport in the name of a third Canadian, with a family name sounding like Aras, Ares, or Aran, but Mr. Axworthy could not remember the spelling.

Canadian officials have been in touch with the real Canadians whose names appear on the three passports, and they have been cooperative, he said.

Israeli closures have wrecked Palestinian recovery — U.N.

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Israeli closures have cost the Palestinians about \$227 million in two months and have wrecked a recovery in the Palestinian economy in early 1997, according to a U.N. report issued Wednesday.

"The comprehensive and internal closures imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip in September and August have undermined a significant economic recovery witnessed over the preceding year," said the report, released in Gaza City.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had predicted eight-per cent growth in the Palestinian gross national product for 1997, and in the first half of the year "economic performance was better than anticipated," the report said.

"But the aftermath of recent closure requires a less optimistic revision in growth," said the U.N.'s special coordinator in the occupied territories in its second-quarter report for 1997.

After two Jerusalem bombings, Israel imposed a complete ban on Palestinians entering Israel for work and closed off movement between West Bank towns for extended periods.

It has since eased the ban to allow some 29,000 Palestinians to reach jobs in Israel, about half of the number allowed in before the attacks.

"Total losses from the recent closures could top \$227 million, nearly twice the amount disbursed by donor countries to the Palestinian people during the first half of 1997," it said.

Those losses wrecked modest gains which the Palestinian economy made in the first six months of 1997.

During the first half of the year, monthly labour flows into Israel were two-thirds higher than the average monthly labour flow for 1996 and were "somewhat higher" than IMF expectations.

Truckloads of merchandise leaving and entering the West Bank and Gaza Strip for Israel or export abroad rose by a third, compared to 1996.

The total number of fully-employed Palestinians rose by more than nine per cent to nearly 370,000, about 70 per cent of the labour force.

But, the report said, the percentage of potential workers actually participating in the labour force fell from

U.N. unlikely to approve more Iraq oil contracts

UNITED NATION (AP) — The United Nations has nearly reached its \$2 billion goal for the sale of Iraqi oil under the oil-for-food deal and probably will not approve more term contracts, a U.N. official said Tuesday.

"Our projection is we're near the \$2 billion amount," the official said on condition of anonymity. He said any contracts still to be approved probably will only be spot contracts that can be filled on short notice. The remaining contracts will probably be approved near the end of the current six-month sale period, when the U.N. has a better idea of how much money has been raised. That depends on prevailing crude oil prices. As of Monday, the special account established to hold the revenues had received \$526.626 million. By Oct. 20, the U.N. expects the account to have received another \$166.723 million. In addition, U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said the account had accrued \$24.2 million in interest. This is the first time the U.N. has released the interest figure.

At least two Israelis, one SLA man killed in south Lebanon

MARIJAYOUN (AFP) — At least two Israeli soldiers and a pro-Israeli Lebanese militiaman were killed Wednesday in two Hizbollah attacks inside the self-declared Israeli "security zone" in south Lebanon, security sources said.

In addition, six Israeli troops and two other South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen were wounded in the attacks by Hizbollah, the sources said.

But other security sources said four Israeli soldiers had died and nine others plus an SLA militiaman were wounded in the two ambushes, which witnesses said took place close together within 200 metres of the Israeli-Lebanese border.

A Hizbollah spokesman told Agence France Presse the group's guerrillas attacked a "convoy of high-ranking Israelis" which had crossed into the buffer zone from the Al Dawaweer gate on the Israeli border.

"Our fighters showered the convoy with machinegun fire and rocket-propelled grenades, inflicting direct hits and burning one of the four cars," he said.

At least two, and as many as four, Israeli soldiers were killed and seven others were wounded in the attack. An SLA militiaman was also wounded, the security sources said.

An Israeli army spokesman said Israel and the SLA had suffered casualties in a bomb and mortar attack close to the Israeli border, but in line with army rules he gave no further details so as to allow families to be informed.

Earlier, Hizbollah released a statement saying its guerrillas had attacked an Israeli convoy near Markaba in the central sector of the zone, and that at least one vehicle had been blown up.

The Israeli spokesman said two Israeli soldiers, an officer serving in an elite unit and a scout, were wounded in the Markaba bombing but that neither of them had life-threatening injuries.

A Lebanese woman, identified as Zeinab Hussein, was also said to have been wounded when a rocket hit the village of Markaba itself. There was no confirmation on the source of fire against the village.

In retaliation, Israeli gunners pounded suspected Hizbollah strongholds north of the self-declared security zone.

Security sources said more than 60 shells landed around the outskirts of the villages of Wadi Slouki, Wadi Al Hujer, Touline and Majdal Seln, setting fire to a number of woods and valleys.

At least 37 Israeli soldiers have now been killed in south Lebanon since the beginning of the year, the highest toll since the Israel set up its "security zone" in 1985.

U.N. arms chief accuses Iraq of 'lying' about biological weapons

DUBAI (AFP) — A U.N. official has accused Iraq of "lying" about its biological arms programme, in his harshest criticism since taking over as head of a disarmament commission, an Arabic newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The information supplied by Iraq is "ridiculous," Richard Butler told the London-based daily Al Hayat.

"Lies only slow down our mission and make it more difficult," said the chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) for

eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

"There is no alternative to the truth," said Mr. Butler, whose relations with Iraq have been good since taking over in July from Swedish diplomat Rolf Ekeus, a hate figure in Baghdad.

In a report which Mr. Butler delivered to the U.N. Security Council on Monday, he accused Iraq of continuing to conceal weapons from UNSCOM inspectors, especially in the field of germ warfare.

"This is an area which is

unredeemed by progress or any approximation of the known facts of Iraq's programme," he said. "There is incomprehension of why Iraq is persisting so strongly with ... refusing to make the facts known."

But Mr. Butler said Iraq has made progress in supplying information on its chemical weapons and missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres that have also been banned since the 1991 Gulf War over Kuwait.

He urged the Security Council to "insist that Iraq

meet its obligation to fully disclose all its prohibited weapons and associated programmes" and give U.N. inspectors access to suspected Iraqi arms sites.

The Security Council is due to discuss Mr. Butler's report on Oct. 16.

An oil embargo under U.N. sanctions, which have been in force since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, can not be lifted until UNSCOM certifies that Iraqi weapons of mass destruction have been eliminated.

Turkish university students protest ban on Islamic head wear

ISTANBUL (AP) — Hundreds of women students at Istanbul University, clad in black robes and head coverings, protested a ban of their Islamic dress from ID card photos.

The university, the nation's largest, has barred women students from registering for the academic year if they submitted photos which show them with a head cover. Other public schools have similar bans.

Women are allowed to attend classes in their Islamic attire. But university officials say that having the attire in photo IDs can make it difficult to recognise students. They must show the IDs to take exams, and can be barred.

A new pro-secular government installed in July after the previous, Islamic-led administration was forced out by the military, has clamped down on activities considered anti-secular.

The black chador favoured by some is a strict Islamic dress code followed only by orthodox believers in this predominantly Muslim but secular country.

Women civil servants, lawyers, judges and doctors at public hospitals are also barred from covering their heads at work. The previous government's efforts to lift those bans were among the factors which led to its demise.

Hamas play mocks Mossad

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Student supporters of Hamas at Gaza's Islamic University put on a play Tuesday mocking Israel's Mossad spy service after its "defeat" at the hands of the Islamist group.

The 10-minute sketch, put on before a crowd of several hundred students at Al Azhar University, featured three "Mossad agents," named Dani, Mordechai and Mizrahi, played by students.

"Hamas is driving us crazy," Dani wailed, complaining over the agency's failed attempt to kill Hamas political chief Khaled Misha'al in Amman on Sept. 25.

"We kill Yahya Ayyash, we kill Imad Aql, and still they drive us out," he said, referring to Hamas leaders slain by presumed Israeli agents in the past.

Then the trio receives a phone call from "Bibi" — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — informing them he has released the spiritual leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin.

"But Mossad rules the world! This must be a mistake," Dani Yatom cries at the news, while Mizrahi protests, "I resign. I resign."

"There are four million

Israelis. We should import nine million dogs so that every Israeli can have guard dogs to protect him," Mr. Mordechai said.

The mini-play was warm rounds of applause from the crowd of students.

Hamas has been proclaiming victory ever since Mr. Netanyahu was forced last week to free Sheikh Yassin after eight years imprisonment in order to win the return of two Israeli agents arrested by Jordan while trying to kill Mr. Misha'al.

Over 15,000 Palestinians turned out at a mass rally to celebrate Sheikh Yassin's return to Gaza City Monday.

Yemeni protesters want rapists executed

SANAA (R) — About 1,000 tribesmen took to the streets in a central Yemen town on Tuesday to demand the execution of four men convicted of raping a 10-year-old boy, residents said.

The protest was triggered by a court order jailing three of the four rapists for up to 10 years and 100 lashes

each and sentencing the fourth man to death, residents of the Dhamar town, about 100 km south of Sanaa, said.

The protesters belonged to the victim's tribe, while the defendants were from another tribe.

"Members of the (victim's) tribe are still coming into town. Most of them are

armed and taking positions on a hill overlooking the town," a resident said.

An appeal court is set to hold a session on the case on Wednesday.

Yemen, where many carry weapons, is plagued with violence. At least 22 people were killed during and after parliamentary elections in April.

Kurdish leaders fail again to end dispute in northern Iraq

CAIRO (AP) — Leaders of the two main Kurdish factions in northern Iraq again failed to end their dispute and form a joint administration for the autonomous enclave, Kurdish officials said Wednesday.

Senior representatives of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan met Monday and Tuesday in Lodonoo with British officials in another effort to bring a durable peace to Iraq's northern Kurdish region.

But the officials, who

spoke on condition of anonymity, said no agreement was reached on the main issue — reestablishing "a unified government" for the enclave. Attempts to reach the two parties' leaders by telephone for comment were unsuccessful.

The two factions agreed to a cease-fire in April and promised to open negotiations on a permanent settlement to end fighting that started last year after Iraqi troops helped the KDP expel its rivals from the key city of Erbil.

The cease-fire was mediated by the United States. Turkey and Britain also have been mediating between the two groups to try to strengthen the truce. The U.S. and British effort is aimed at having the Kurds form a strong alliance against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Among the points of the Kurds' dispute are their relations with President Saddam and lucrative revenues from levies collected by the KDP from goods coming across the border from Turkey.



OCCUPATION TROOPS KILLED: An Israeli soldier watches smoke rise from an Israeli position in Markab village in the Israeli self-declared security-zone in south Lebanon Wednesday. Four Israeli soldiers were killed and nine wounded on Wednesday in a series of Hizbollah attacks deep inside Israeli's self-declared south Lebanon occupation zone, pro-Israeli militia sources said (See story on page 1) (Reuters photo)

King reveals letter on possible dialogue with Hamas sent to Netanyahu 48hrs before assault

(Continued from page 1)

accomplish our target, to save the life of that person."

During the assassination attempt, one of the two Israeli agents, attacked Mr. Misha'al and reportedly sprayed a "chemical substance" into his ear using a "strange instrument."

The King said that, following the assassination attempt, Mr. Netanyahu visited Amman with two of his senior ministers to express his regrets. The King said that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met with the three, Mr. Netanyahu, Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Minister of Infrastructure Ariel Sharon. The King said the three arrived in Jordan on the night of Sept. 29.

"I delegated my brother to meet them. They expressed their pain and regret because Jordan was treated (by Israel) in such a way and (pledged) that this will not be repeated again under any circumstances," the King said.

The King said Jordan would not accept "such methods in any circumstances."

"These acts are slaps in the face, and we will slap back," the King said. He explained that Israel

King telephones Netanyahu to patch up ties

TEL AVIV (R) — King Hussein telephoned Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday to express his desire to patch up ties after the Israeli prime minister enraged Jordan by sending a hit squad to kill a Hamas leader in Amman, Mr. Netanyahu's office said. "Hussein again said he wants to work together with Prime Minister Netanyahu to rehabilitate ties between Jordan and Israel and to advance the peace process," Mr. Netanyahu's office said in a statement. The statement said King Hussein telephoned while Mr. Netanyahu was holding talks with U.S. peace envoy Dennis Ross and was briefed on last night's summit between the Israeli leader and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. King Hussein called Mr. Netanyahu's attempt to assassinate Khaled Misha'al, a top leader of the Islamist group Hamas, in Amman on September 25 a "slap in the face" for Israel's closest Arab peace partner.

agreed to release "23 Jordanian prisoners. Of which nine are back (in Jordan) and the rest who live in the West Bank and carry Jordanian passports went back to their families, 50 Palestinian prisoners from the West Bank and Gaza will be released within days." The King added that the remainder of Jordanian prisoners will also be freed within two weeks.

The King said that Israel pledged to respect its peace treaty with Jordan in "letter and spirit."

The King said that he repeatedly called for the release of Sheikh Yassin from his detention, and "he was released to Jordan and received all necessary treatment before he left for Gaza."

The King said that part of the reason behind the decision to release the two Mossad agents

was taking into accounts that there was no "weapon" found and no evidence found to allow for trial.

The factor that played the greatest role in the release of the two Israeli agents was that if they were sent to trial "it would not have been possible to save our son (Khaled Misha'al) nor could we have achieved other things," said the King, referring to the release of Sheikh Yassin and the prisoners.

Putting the blame on Mr. Netanyahu and other high-level Israeli officials, the King said that the two Israeli agents should not be blamed for the attack but those who ordered them to carry it out.

The conflict "is not with the two agents. Those are soldiers who carry out orders. The problem is with the party which gave orders for such an

act. It bears the responsibility," the King said.

The King also explained that had Jordan adopted a tougher position following the incident, that would have backfired on the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, which were about to restart after a long impasse.

"We took also in consideration the current negotiations between the Palestinian leadership and the Israeli government. We did not want to put more pressure (on the Israelis), hoping that the talks would be fruitful," the King said.

He said that he received messages from Jews inside and outside of Israel as well as from people all over the world denouncing the attack against Mr. Misha'al.

"The dignity of the Jordanian citizen, his right to a secured life on his land and the dignity of the country are above all considerations," King said.

Regarding the Palestinian people, the King said that he will do whatever he could to enable them to acquire "their rights on their soil" adding that he will work hard to help in releasing more Palestinians from Israeli jails.

The King said that Jordan will never be a base for conspiracy against any country "nor will it be a base for harming anyone, whoever he may be." He stressed that Jordan will remain "secure" for its people and those who visit it.

The King greeted the bodyguard of Mr. Misha'al "for the courage he showed" and the Jordanian security forces for their efforts.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10...New Kids on the Block
14:30...My Little Fairy Tale
15:00...America's Funniest People
15:30...He Shoots He Scores
16:00...I Love Lucy
16:30...The Boy From Andromeda
17:00...French Programmes
19:00...News in French
19:15...French Programmes
19:30...News Headlines
19:35...Trivial Pursuit
20:00...Parenting
20:30...Lois and Clark — Superman
21:10...Oprah Winfrey Show
22:00...News in English
22:30...Feature Film
23:59...End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:13...Fajr
05:30...Sunrise) Doha
11:23...Dhuhr
14:42...Asr
17:16...Maghreb
18:33...Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweidich, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church

Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church

Tel. 772561

St. Ephraim Church Tel.

771751

Amman International Church

Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical

Congregation Tel. 688404

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.

654932

Church of Nazareth Tel.

675691

The Evangelical Local Church

in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking

Latin Catholics Parish Tel.

614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Relative warm weather conditions will prevail during the weekend with temperatures rising further, winds appearing at different altitudes and winds southeasterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, it will be relatively warm and occasionally cloudy, winds northerly mod-

erate and seas calm.

Amman18/31

Aqaba21/34

Deserts15/33

Jordan Valley21/35

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 30, Aqaba 32 Humid-

ity readings: Amman 28 per

cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Abbas Al Hakim885446

Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab602507

Dr. Ayman Al Mubtaseb875748

Dr. Jamal Jarrah847351

Firas pharmacy661912

Ferdows pharmacy778336

Al Asena pharmacy637055

Nairokh pharmacy623672

Al Salam pharmacy636730

Yacoub pharmacy644945

Shmeisani pharmacy637660

Najib pharmacy847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir276852

Al Quds pharmacy(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Hilal Al Sayyid986702

Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre637111

Civil Defence Department661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue630341

Civil Defence Emergency199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade617101

Blind Bank775121

Highway Police843402

Traffic Police896390

Public Security Department630321

Hotel Complaints605800

Price Complaints661176

Water and Sewerage Com-

plaints897467

Amman Municipality Com-

plaints787111

Telephone Information (direc-

tory assistance)121

Overseas Calls010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs

.....661101

Jordan Television773111

Radio Jordan774111

Water Authority680100

Jordan Electricity Authority

.....815615

Electric Power Company

.....636381

RJ Flight Information 08-

53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-

53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre

.....813813/32

Khalidi Maternity64281/6

Akileh Maternity642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity

.....642362

Mallhas, J. Amman636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital669131

University Hospital845845

Al-Mousher Hospital

.....66727/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali664164/6

Italian, Al-Mubajreen

.....777101/3

Al-Bashir,775111/26

Army, Marks891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital

.....602240/50

Amal Hospital674155

The Arab Centre for Heart

and Special Surgery865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital

.....(09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital

.....(09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital

.....(09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital

.....(02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital

.....(02)272275

Ibn Al Nafies Hospital

.....(02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital

.....(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

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Queen attends international benefit dinner for needy children

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday attended an international benefit gala dinner for children in need at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) headquarters in Paris, according to a press release Wednesday.

The dinner, which was held under the patronage of

President Jacques Chirac, is an annual event organised by UNESCO to fund projects of the "World Education Programme for Children in Need," the announcement continued.

According to UNESCO estimates, more than 100 million children all over the world live a perilous existence in utter poverty. They include street children,

refugees, and victims of war, exploited, and disabled children, the announcement read.

Members of the gala event's committee of honour included Queen Noor, King Hassan of Morocco, King Albert of Belgium, President Yasser Arafat and Czech President Vaclav Havel. Among the dignitaries attending the event

were Princess Ghida Talal, Prince Mohammad, and Lalla Maryam of Morocco, the Crown Prince and Princess of Luxembourg, Nazek Hariri, and Minister of Education and Higher Education Munther Masri and his wife, as well as French, European, and UNESCO officials, the statement continued.



The audience listens to the speakers at the seminar examining the life and works of the late former Prime Minister Samir Rifai (Petra photo)

Seminar examines life, works of former Premier Samir Rifai

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on the life and work of the late Prime Minister Samir Rifai was opened at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) Wednesday by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who described the late premier as a brilliant statesman.

The late prime minister was a noted parliamentarian, politician, educator, and statesman who served under the late King Abdullah and His Majesty King Hussein, contributing to the creation of the Kingdom, said Dr. Majali.

In outlining the work of the late prime minister, Dr. Majali stated that Mr.

Rifai, who died 32 years ago, served in a number of significant posts after 1944 and during his second mandate, the first Parliament composed of a senate and lower house was established in 1947.

Describing the late prime minister as a symbol of loyalty to the Hashemite throne, Dr. Majali said Mr. Rifai dealt with various political, parliamentary, social, and economic issues with objectivity, and as a prime minister, he was in close contact with the public.

Noting that the late premier served as president of the University of Jordan for some time, Dr.

Majali said Mr. Rifai was instrumental in promoting the academic life in Jordan through the university, which was the first to be established in the country.

The seminar reviewed several working papers submitted in two sessions by prominent veteran politicians, focusing on the major achievements of the governments led by Mr. Rifai.

Among those attending the seminar were his son, former prime minister and present Senate Speaker Zeid Rifai, Cabinet members, parliamentarians, and politicians.

Measles vaccination programme to begin next week

AMMAN (Petra) — A nationwide measles vaccination campaign targeting almost 1.1 million children aged six to fifteen will be launched next Tuesday, according to Sa'd Kharabsheh, head of the disease control department at the Ministry of Health.

Addressing a press conference held at the Ministry, Dr. Kharabsheh said the month-long, \$200,000 campaign will be implemented in accordance with the ministry's strategy of eradicating measles by the year 2009.

Health centres throughout the Kingdom and mobile vaccination teams will vaccinate children. Qualified health teams from the ministry, the Royal Medical Services, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) will carry out the programme.

School children are an easy target for measles attacks, because the infection is easily transmitted, Dr. Kharabsheh said.

He said measles has been and is still a major child killer in Jordan, stating that it is an endemic disease in the country.

Since the inception of the national immunisation programme in 1981, Jordan succeeded in increasing the measles immunisation coverage to 95 per cent by 1996, in addition to reducing measles incidence rates.

He voiced hope that Jordan will be able to eradicate other childhood diseases, including polio, tetanus, and diphtheria.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sheikh, King Hussein Bridges to close

AMMAN (Petra) — The Sheikh Hussein crossing post in the north Jordan Valley and the King Hussein Bridge will be closed for traffic as of Friday, October 10 until Sunday morning, according to Public Security Department sources. The sources said Sheikh Hussein Bridge will be closed from 10:00 a.m. Friday until 6:30 a.m. Sunday, while the King Hussein Bridge will be closed from Friday noon until 7:00 a.m. Sunday.

Standards meeting to begin Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — Experts from the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) Sunday will start a week-long meeting here with Jordanian experts to exchange ideas and expertise on developing advanced specifications and metrology specifications and quality assurance systems. Participants in the meeting, organised by GTZ in cooperation with the Meteorology and Specifications Corporation, will discuss such issues as certification of quality control laboratories, role of the standard European certification systems in promoting trade with non-European countries, industrial property rights, and public safety in factories.

Information centres established to field public's election queries

AMMAN (J.T.) — Governor of Amman Talaat Nawaiseh Wednesday announced that his office has created information centres in each operations room in every district of the Amman Governorate to respond to public queries on election-related matters.

Mr. Nawaiseh said the telephones in the operations rooms have been assigned the following numbers that can be reached by the public:

First District/ Al Nuzha Vocational School — 635748
Second District/ Queen Noor School-Wadwat — 766855
Third District/ The Orthodox School-Shemisani — 613493
Fourth District/ National School for Women/ Queen Alia International Airport — 716706/716709
Fifth District/ The

Applied Sciences University/ Shafa Badran — 836150/839996
Sixth District / Badia/ Polytechnic — 8867240/886970

The Ministry of Interior earlier swore in heads and members of the elections committees and ordered government employees of the Ministry of Finance and its departments and the Civil Registration and Passports Department to be at

work Friday, Oct. 10, to receive applications from candidates running in the upcoming general elections.

During the three-day period for application registration to run in the elections, candidates should register at the governor's office and pay JD500 each to the Department of Finance in their respective district.

Princess Basma opens new King Hussein Orphanage in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday inaugurated the new Irbid premises of the King Hussein Orphanage, which is funded by His Majesty King Hussein.

In an address at the inauguration ceremony, Princess Basma said the orphanage reflects the genuine sense of solidarity among the citizens of Irbid Governorate and shows their tendency to pursue acts of charity.

She voiced her appreciation of the efforts exerted by the orphanage governing board for their constant care accorded to the orphaned children.

Orphanage Board Chairman Abdul Razzak Tubeishat outlined the development of the King Hussein Orphanage Society and its services to orphaned children, including providing them with accommodation, food, clothing, and a familial environment.

Many orphaned children have completed their education and vocational training and are now counted as productive members of the Jordanian community, he said.

Paying tribute to King



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday meets with some of the children at the King Hussein Orphanage in Irbid. She also inaugurated the new premises of the orphanage (Petra photo)

Hussein's efforts, Dr. Tubeishat said the King has contributed generously to the establishment of the orphanage and its continued services, thus enabling the board to save money, which was used to build an integrated shopping centre that provides a steady

income to finance the orphans' needs.

Dr. Tubeishat also expressed appreciation to the local community members who have been donating to the orphanage, adding that the new premises of the orphanage are capable of dealing with any

number of orphans from northern Jordan.

Part of the funds collected for the orphanage was used in the construction of a dormitory for female university students, and the rent they pay is covering part of the orphanage's expenses, he said.

Japan donates equipment for disabled at Ma'an centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Japan has donated \$9,000 worth of equipment related to the educational and vocational activities for the disabled to the Ma'an Centre of the Ministry of Social Development, according to a Japanese embassy press release Wednesday.

The equipment was presented to Fiyal Akeel, director of the centre, by Kichiro Kuno, acting representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) office in Jordan. The presentation ceremony was held at the centre Wednesday and attended by Mr. Takashi Ashiki, counsellor at the Embassy of Japan in Amman, the statement continued.

Within the framework of technical cooperation, includ-

ing development surveys, the equipment provision programme, and dispatching experts and volunteers, the government of Japan supports the disabled in Jordan through the Ministry of Social Development, as well as local NGOs, according to the announcement.

The equipment provided under the equipment provision programme is expected to improve activities for the disabled at the centre, consisting of needlework, cooking, dairy care, drawing, and sports, the press release read.

Nozomi Yoshiike, a member of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), seconded by JICA, has been assigned to the centre since July 1996. She is a specialist in nursing the disabled and has over 10 years of experi-

ence in the field. Upon Ms. Yoshiike's recommendations, the government of Japan has decided to provide equipment to facilitate her work and enhance the centre's programme and activities for the disabled, the statement continued.

Meanwhile, seven Japanese volunteers have been assigned as therapists and nurses to Jordan for the purpose of supporting the disabled in the Kingdom, the statement read.

Two other volunteers from JICA have been working in the Ma'an governorate. Machiko Ando has given needlework lessons to women at the Ma'an Centre of Queen Alia Fund for Social Development since December 1996, and Takako Katsumoto, Public Health

Nurse at the Ma'an Centre of the Ministry of Health, arrived last July to help improve medical conditions in Ma'an along with her Jordanian colleagues, the announcement continued.

In remarks following the presentation ceremony, Mr. Ashiki stated: "Earlier this year the government of Japan provided physiotherapy equipment to the Ma'an Disabled Care Centre. Today's donation is also expected to contribute to improving the conditions of the disabled in Ma'an. We will continue to support the disabled and their families in the Kingdom, hoping that such kinds of assistance will help improve educational and vocational activities for the disabled in Jordan," the statement concluded.

Symposium examines water issues of Jordan, Middle East

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for Desertification Control and Badia Development (JSDCBD), the Jordan Environment Society (JES), and the Civil Defence Department Wednesday held a one-day symposium, entitled "Water: Scarcity or Excess Cause Disasters," in observation of World Day for Dealing with the Consequences of Natural Disasters.

JSDCBD President Abdul Latif Arabiyat opened the symposium with an address stating that water scarcity, as well as floods, are among the major challenges facing Jordan and the Middle East.

The need to deal with this issue through proper management of available water resources and the employment of modern technology should assume priority in this region to benefit present and future generations, Dr. Arabiyat said.

Any imbalances in water availability can result in the deterioration of food production and life on this planet, he added.

JES President Sufian Tell echoed Dr. Arabiyat's views, saying that Jordan has suffered from floods at some points and the lack of water

and drought, at others, causing heavy human losses and damage to the economy.

He said it is unfortunate to see that the meagre water resources available in the Middle East are being polluted, and floods causing extensive damage to agricultural products.

Working papers reviewed by the participants discussed the water situation in Jordan, water for irrigation, drought and floods, the development of the badia, desertification, and dealing with disasters resulting from floods.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL
* Netherlands film "Oerlog" at the Royal Cultural Centre, on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

KOREAN FILM FESTIVAL
* Two Korean films entitled "Fly High, Run Far" and "Marriage Story" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Friday respectively at 4:00 and 7:30 p.m. respectively.

FILMS
* "Los Gozos y Las Sombras" (pts 3 and 4) at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
* "The Age of Innocence" at the American Centre, Abdoun on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

PLAY
* Children's play "Shahrouh and Traffic Rules" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m. (daily until Oct. 16).

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL

THURSDAY ACTIVITIES
* Graphics by Rafa Nasiri of Iraq, Ziad Daloul of Syria, and Najia Mehajji at the South

Hall.
* Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Qailoka at the Middle Hall.
* Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.
* Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Blue House.
* Paintings by children of Zarqa reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church.

EXHIBITIONS
* "The Project of the Essence, Aspects of the Italian paintings in the 90s" at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Yarmouk University, until Oct. 22.
* Japanese pottery exhibition by Soei Obiya at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Oct. 9.
* Exhibition of paintings and weaving entitled "Murmurs of Our Land" by Riban Ghassib and Bani Hamida at Bani Hamida House (Tel. 6586967), until Oct. 30.
* Exhibition of Catalan masters of the 20th century entitled "Aura Mediterranea" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 28 (except Tuesdays).
* Quilt exhibition "Piecing It Together" by Ms. Virginia Harris at the American Centre, Abdoun, until Oct. 20.

Koreas sign landmark agreement on aviation

SEOUL (AFP) — South and North Korea concluded a landmark agreement Wednesday that would allow commercial airlines to overfly each other's territory for the first time since their division in 1945, officials here said.

"This is a landmark accord in a non-political relations between the two Koreas," said a statement released here by the Ministry of Construction and Transportation.

The agreement was signed in Bangkok between the two Koreas on the same day North Korean leader Kim Jong-il was named as the head of the state's ruling party, ending a three-year official power vacuum since his father died.

"The agreement was signed today in Bangkok. Maybe North Korea timed it together with Kim Jong-il's appointment," a ministry official said.

He said the agreement would take effect April 3, 1998.

The ministry statement

said the two Koreas had agreed to use a land-based phone line as the primary means of contact and satellite services as an auxiliary tool to monitor overflights and keep in touch.

South Korea had been insisting on the use of land-based phone lines, which they believe are less prone to interruptions and less expensive to maintain, while the North wanted two satellite services — Asiasat and Intersat.

But in case of emergencies, the two sides also agreed on direct phone lines using Asiasat II.

When the new routes open next year, Seoul-U.S. and Seoul-China flights would be cut by up to 30 minutes and the North would earn some five million dollars annually from overflight fees.

The aviation talks were prompted by North Korea's decision to open its air space to international flights, with a pledge to provide safety and prompt search and rescue opera-

tions in the case of flights in distress.

The two Koreas, still technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean conflict ended in the signing of a truce but not a peace agreement, held the Bangkok talks under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Two previous rounds of aviation talks last year and in March this year stalled without agreement. South Korea's two main commercial airlines immediately welcomed the agreement, saying it would help cut costs, especially on flights to the Russian far east and on polar flights elsewhere.

Yonhap News Agency quoted an official of Korean Air as saying that the agreement would cut fuel costs, although he doubted it would bring down ticket prices.

"But the most important thing is the significant fact that we will be flying through North Korean skies," Yonhap quoted him as saying.



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is escorted on a tonga, a horse driven open carriage, by Pakistan's President Farooq Leghari to deliver a speech to the National Assembly in Islamabad (Reuters photo)

Queen Elizabeth II urges India, Pakistan to be friends

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Queen Elizabeth II Wednesday called for Pakistan and India to end 50 years of rivalry, insisting a rapprochement between the Commonwealth neighbours would open up vast opportunities.

In a speech to a special sitting of the two houses of the Pakistan parliament, the British monarch said Pakistan and India have a "leading role" to play in realising South Asia's "full potential."

The queen arrived Tuesday for a six-day state visit to mark Pakistan's 50th year of independence. She will also go to India which is celebrating the same anniversary after the partition of the subcontinent in 1947 ended British rule.

The queen said the two countries could help make the "vision" a reality. She did not refer specifically to the Kashmir dispute, a malignant tumour in Indo-Pakistan relations, but welcomed recently opened bilateral talks urging them to settle "historic" disagreements.

"It is surely right, on this 50th anniversary of the independence of both countries, to take stock and renew efforts to end historic disagreements," she told a packed house attended by over 200 MPs.

The queen, who goes to India Sunday, delivered the key address after a welcome speech by National Assembly Speaker, Illahi Bakhsh Soomro, underlining the significance of her participation in the national independence celebrations.

The house rose as she walked in. The queen stood flanked by President Farooq Leghari and Mr. Soomro as the two countries' national anthems were played. The proceedings started with a recitation from the Koran.

The audience included Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, his cabinet colleagues and opposition leader Benazir Bhutto. The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip and British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook sat together in the gallery.

"We all know, from experience, that animosity retards development... that development requires trust... that lack of trust closes off opportunities," the 71-year-old monarch said.

"There are few areas of the world where development is so acutely needed as in this subcontinent. It brings the friends of both countries only pleasure to see the commitment both have made this year to solve contentious issues through talks."

"Britain, as a friend of both, can only urge a new spirit of openness and understanding, of dedication to peaceful solutions," she said.

Advising patience, the queen said reconciliation will take time, but the effort "must" be made, adding: "I am convinced it will be worthwhile for the more than one billion inhabitants of the two countries."

"There are few things that would do more to unleash the region's potential than the lifting of the barriers between its two largest

nations," she said.

Mr. Leghari, speaking at a banquet attended by the queen Tuesday, underscored the issue of Kashmir was central to Indo-Pakistan ties, urging the world to take notice of the situation in the troubled Himalayan state.

Kashmir, divided between Pakistan and India and claimed by both, has been a catalyst for the two of the three wars between the neighbours in the past. The border in Kashmir remains a traditional flashpoint.

The president slammed what he called "cruel oppression" in Kashmir — a reference to the eight-year-old Muslim separatist campaign in the disputed region's Indian part that has claimed more than 20,000 lives.

India blames the turmoil on Pakistan, which denies the charge and calls the drive a legitimate struggle for self-determination vowing political and moral support.

Queen Elizabeth, stressing the need for regional cooperation, noted that contacts between nations in Europe, North America and in South East Asia had boosted the prosperity of them all.

She vowed continued support to Pakistan's economic development, calling for investment in education in the country, which has a literacy rate of around 30 per cent, and where one fifth of population has been hit by extreme poverty.

During talks with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov in the Azeri capital Baku Tuesday, Azeri President Geidar Aliyev gave a "positive" assessment of the Minsk Group's proposals. ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Armenia provided the separatists in Nagorno-Karabakh with logistical and military support throughout the six-year war.

U.K. Labour's new women accuse Tories of sexism

LONDON (R) — Sniggering male members of Britain's parliament are making life tough for a regiment of newly elected Labour women deputies, Labour officials said Wednesday.

They accused opposition Conservative MPs of repeatedly taunting women colleagues with sexist jokes about their dress, appearance and fitness for the job.

A record 119 women were elected to parliament in May — 101 of them representing the victorious Labour Party — transforming the face of what was known as the best "gentlemen's club" in London.

"Some of the worst examples are crude sexual innuendo and abuse... But the softer examples include telling women to get back to the kitchen or 'go home and cook your husband's dinner,'" said Labour MP Bridget Prentice.

Other Labour women said they had been taunted with offers to "come outside and

we'll show you a good time."

The women said they planned to shame the men into silence by scanning videotapes of proceedings in the House of Commons and reporting the worst offenders to the speaker Betty Boothroyd for possible disciplinary action.

"It is about time they realised the world has changed and leave their (private) school sniggering behind them," Labour MP Margaret Hodge told BBC Radio.

Conservative MPs disagreed over the level of sexism. Veteran Teddy Taylor accepted that some of his colleagues could be labelled chauvinists.

But Conservative Michael Fabricant said that teasing was part of the rough and tumble of political life.

"These new MPs will have to get used to a fair amount of abusive comment. If they can't take the heat they shouldn't go in the kitchen," he said.

Russian father, son say adrift six months at sea

BANGKOK (R) — A Russian man and his son landed a crippled yacht on a Thai holiday island, saying they had survived nearly six months adrift without supplies, police and hospital sources said Wednesday.

The two said they had survived on fish and rainwater before running ashore on the southern island of Phuket Sunday.

Vladimir Medvedev, 44, and his 16-year-old son, Maxim, told police they had set sail in their 15-metre yacht from Russia in August 1995 on an around-the-world trip.

The elder Medvedev told Reuters their food ran out nearly six months ago, forcing them to survive on rainwater and fish.

"I'm in trouble... Six months

no food, little sail, little sail," he told Reuters in broken English from his hospital bed in Phuket.

The pair told police they had sailed to Canada, the United States, Brazil and Africa.

After leaving Cape Town, South Africa, their last port of call, they ran into trouble in the Indian Ocean. Their yacht hit an unknown object damaging their engine and leaving them adrift.

The Bangkok Post newspaper said the Russians had told a doctor they used telecommunications antennae as spears and rods to catch fish and prawns.

The doctor told the newspaper the two were underweight and dehydrated but otherwise healthy.

Diana crash probe to check 112,000 Fiat Unos

PARIS (AFP) — Police probing the crash which killed Princess Diana are checking a list of 112,000 Fiat Unos, the make of car which may have collided with Diana's limousine just before the tragedy, sources close to the investigation said Wednesday.

The list includes every Fiat Uno registered in the Ile-de-France region around Paris from 1983-1994, the entire period when the Italian car was manufactured.

Analysis of evidence found at the scene of the Aug. 31 crash in a Paris underpass has suggested the involvement of a Fiat Uno, believed to be white, just before Diana's Mercedes limousine slammed into a concrete pillar at high speed.

In particular they have found traces of paint on the front

right wing of the Mercedes, as well as on the right wing mirror, which was found 30 metres away from the wreck of the limousine, after apparently having been torn off.

Police also found fragments of a tail light some distance ahead of the crash scene, which were also found to have come from a Fiat Uno.

Some witnesses interviewed by police have reported that a vehicle may have got in the way of the Mercedes shortly before the crash, which killed 36-year-old Diana, her boyfriend Dodi Fayed and driver Henri Paul.

The only survivor of the crash, bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, suffered partial amnesia as a result of the crash and has so far been unable to tell investigators any details of the accident itself.

Chicago absolves O'Leary's cow in fire

CHICAGO (AFP) — After 126 years of bearing the blame for the great Chicago fire, Catherine O'Leary's cow finally has been exonerated.

Legend had it that the cow kicked over a lantern while being milked, causing the devastating fire that raged from Oct. 8-10, 1871, killing 300 people and consuming much of this lakefront city.

But the city council voted Monday to set the record straight and remove any guilt from the bovine and her owner.

"Mrs. Kate O'Leary and her cow are innocent of any blame for the fire that raged behind their house," said Alderman Ed Burke.

"We always knew that she was innocent," said Nancy Knight Connolly, the great-granddaughter of O'Leary. "But everybody

else thought they did it. So now we'll be exonerated."

Part of the credit for the research leading to the exoneration goes to amateur historian Richard Bales, who noted that the evidence pointing to the cow came from a neighbour, Daniel "Peg Leg" Sullivan, who first reported seeing the fire from a neighbour's front steps.

Mr. Bales argued that Mr. Sullivan's line of sight would be blocked.

Professor Carl Smith of Northwestern University suggested that determining who started the fire might be impossible with only this historical record but said O'Leary, who died in 1895, deserved some measure of exoneration.

"She, like the cow, innocent or not, has suffered enough," he said.

Taleban step up beatings

KABUL (AFP) — Beard trimmer checks in the Afghan capital have been stepped up with headline Muslim Taleban teams dealing out painful beatings to men with inadequate facial hair, residents said Wednesday.

Locals told AFP that new inspection posts have been set up in residential areas, the city centre and on roads exiting Kabul dedicated to checking for violators of the militia's strict ruling on beards.

"They checked my beard and decided it was too short so I was beaten six times on each hand with a steel cable," reported one victim, complaining he could hardly clench his fists due to the severe bruising on his palms.

He said he was punished Tuesday along with tens of others in the Microrayan bousing estate, where a team of Taleban fighters had established a check point in a crowded shopping area.

"The beatings have been so hard that people are avoiding going to the market," added another local victim from the district.

Another resident, also suffering from badly swollen hands and tender

fingers, said his short beard was noticed in the city centre, where he received a lashing of the hands with a rubber hose.

Tens of other incidents have been reported in other districts of war-shattered Kabul in the past week, including increasing checks on the southern and western exits of the city where bus passengers are checked.

Residents revealed the instruments used for punishment — mostly a beating of the hands and occasionally the back or legs — include hefty steel cables, lengthy rubber hoses and leather whips.

New checkpoints have also been spotted in recent weeks outside the justice ministry, which is headed by the zealous Mullah Nuruddin Turabi.

Mr. Turabi won fame when he personally supervised the mass roundup and brief imprisonment of 700 beard trimming bus passengers in a town close to Kabul only three months ago.

The other beard inspection posts are believed to be operated by either Turabi loyalists or by the separate Department for the Promotion of Virtue

and Suppression of Vice, the Taleban's religious police force.

The Taleban have held Kabul for one year, implementing what they consider to be a "pure Islamic state" in the once relatively liberal city.

Part of the Taleban's Islamic revolution here includes a ruling that men cannot shave or trim their beards, an interpretation of the "Sunnat" (traditions) of the Prophet Mohammad.

So far this year, Taleban-run Radio Shariat has announced the arrest, punishment or sacking from government posts of around 1,300 alleged beard trimmers in and around Kabul.

However, with the latest round of beatings going unreported by the Taleban's mouthpiece, the true figure is believed to be far higher.

In the past a brief and symbolic beating with a lengthy rubber hose was the usual prescription for violators, but the victims describe the latest crackdown as notable due to its severity.

Karabakh leader says status dispute should not delay peace process

STEPANAKERT, Azerbaijan (AFP) — The new leader of the breakaway Nagorno-Karabakh enclave in Azerbaijan has suggested delaying a final agreement on the disputed territory's political status, leaving the door open for further negotiations.

Arkady Gukasyan, who was elected "president" of the Armenian-populated enclave last month, ruled out any return of the territory to

Azerbaijani control, and criticised a peace plan proposed by the so-called Minsk Group — France, Russia and the United States — under the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) auspices.

But at a news conference Tuesday in Nagorno-Karabakh's main town, Stepanakert, Mr. Gukasyan told reporters: "We'll take part in any talks provided our bands are not tied."

Separatists in Nagorno-Karabakh — an enclave of Christian ethnic Armenians inside Muslim Azerbaijan — drove out government forces in a 1988-1994 war that killed 20,000 people and saw the flight of the enclave's ethnic Azeri population.

A shaky ceasefire has been in effect since May 1994.

The Minsk Group has put forward a draft settlement that would grant the

territory a high degree of autonomy.

"The fact that Nagorno-Karabakh didn't accept the plan proposed by the OSCE's Minsk Group doesn't mean we are against a comprehensive settlement," Mr. Gukasyan said.

He said a reference to Nagorno-Karabakh as part of Azerbaijan, contained in the peace plan proposed by OSCE, was unacceptable.

But he added: "If we

don't resolve the status question today, let's agree on the general outlines of Nagorno-Karabakh's status and adopt a memorandum on the future status."

"Let's also agree on a transitional period — how Nagorno-Karabakh will live. 'We have no guarantee that the status question will be resolved in the next five to 10 years. So some elements of that status must be reflected already in the

draft agreement."

During talks with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov in the Azeri capital Baku Tuesday, Azeri President Geidar Aliyev gave a "positive" assessment of the Minsk Group's proposals. ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Scientists keep close eye on new human flu virus

LONDON (R) — Scientists are keeping a close eye on a new influenza virus found in Hong Kong which is similar to strains that killed more than 22 million people this century.

So far, the death of a three-year-old boy in Hong Kong in May is an isolated case. But health organisations around world have been alerted because the potential of the new virus for causing a pandemic, or global epidemic, in humans is unknown.

"I do not think it is a serious threat, not at this moment," Albert Osterhaus of the National

Influenza Centre of the Netherlands, said in an interview.

"But these viruses have, in principle, potential to be pandemic viruses."

More than 20 million people died in the world's worst global flu epidemic — the Spanish flu of 1918. Nearly 40 years later one million succumbed to the Asian flu and in 1967 the Hong Kong flu claimed 700,000 lives.

Scientists do not know what causes a flu pandemic. They believe the new strain originates in birds or pigs and then crosses over to humans who have no immunity

against it. Advances in technology have allowed them to identify new lethal viruses in humans and to launch global warning systems and immunisation programmes.

Many virologists believe another pandemic is already overdue.

Mr. Osterhaus and his colleagues examined the virus that was isolated from the respiratory tract of the boy who died in May. They confirmed that it was a new virus that had not been seen in humans before.

In a letter published in the scientific journal Nature Wednesday, he

explained that the viruses responsible for earlier pandemics involved strains from birds that carried a combination of two viral envelope glycoproteins, haemagglutinin (h) and neuraminidase (n).

The h1n1, h2n2 and h3n2 combinations caused the previous three major epidemics.

The new virus which virologists identified as h5n1 has a similar combination, and doctors believe the child may have caught it while visiting a chicken farm a week before he became ill.

Experts from the World Health Organisation are

investigating a similar virus that has killed chickens in Hong Kong to determine if the boy's case was a direct spill-over and if there are other people infected with it.

"The contribution of the influenza A h5n1 virus infection to his death is not yet clear. But the virus identification is important as the first documented isolation of an influenza virus of this subtype in humans," said Mr. Osterhaus.

So far no other cases have been reported and doctors do not know why the child caught it.

"We have seen in the past similar viruses

spilling over from other animal species, including birds and pigs, and these events have led to pandemic spread of such viruses, but at this moment we do not know why the virus is not spreading among people."

Mr. Osterhaus said early news of the new flu strain proved that the international influenza surveillance network set up by the World Health Organisation works. He also emphasised the importance of closely monitoring this and other similar viruses in the future.

World News
Belarus frees
Russian repo

Great writers
overlooked for

Body 'spare part'
may become a re

Jordan Times

An independent Arab print daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Putting the pieces together

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein has made Amman, and rightly so, his last stop on his cross-country visits which began several weeks ago.

The King used the occasion to reaffirm that elections will be held on time on Nov. 4. By doing so, the King dispelled any suggestion that the elections would be delayed and the outgoing Parliament be restored for another year or two. Jordanians should henceforth prepare themselves for these elections and turn out in strength on election day to choose their representatives to the 13th Parliament.

The other prominent pronouncement by the King was his disclosure that the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, accompanied by two of his senior ministers did visit Amman in the aftermath of the attempt on the life of Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al to explain their action. The Monarch was obviously too angry with the Israeli leader to even see him. Instead the visiting Israelis met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who was asked by the King to receive them. His Majesty could not be faulted for this reaction since the attack that Netanyahu ordered infringed on Jordanian sovereignty and was an affront to all the tremendous and dedicated efforts that this country has made to bring peace and stability to the states and peoples of this region, including Israel and the Israelis. Not that the Crown Prince wanted to see Netanyahu & Co. either. Prince Hassan was quoted in the Washington Post this week as saying he was still feeling nauseated by what happened.

Nevertheless Jordan skillfully used the Israeli blunder to breathe new life into the peace process. Not only did Netanyahu express regret over his reckless action, which humbled him at home and on the international arena. He had to release Hamas' senior leader, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, and scores of Jordanian and Palestinian prisoners. Yesterday's meeting between Netanyahu and President Yasser Arafat must also be seen as a direct result of the debacle.

Meanwhile, nothing would restore Jordanian-Israeli relations to where they had been prior to the foiled attempt on the Hamas leader than an ironclad assurance that Israel will never again threaten Jordan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Israeli prime minister has also to make good on his pledge to move forward in a meaningful way on the Palestinian track.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Munes Razzaz has condemned the behaviour of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who, he said, instead of apologising for sending his Mossad agents into Jordan to commit criminal acts, has emphatically said he would not stop chasing what he called terrorists everywhere. Everywhere also means Jordan which Netanyahu seems to believe would be incapable of fighting back and fending off acts of aggression or terrorism, said Razzaz. Netanyahu should know that Jordan can cause far more trouble to Israel than that caused by Lebanon, and it is not ready to ensure the protection of Israel, the writer said. The leader of the Israeli Labour Party Ehud Barak has said Netanyahu is now swamped in mud but refuses to admit it and to reflect on his failed adventures, insisting instead of carry on the fight, anywhere, against those he calls terrorists, said Razzaz. Neither can Jordan save Netanyahu from his debacle nor can the Palestinian people serve as policemen, protecting Netanyahu and his people from Hamas, the writer said. He said Jordan and the Palestinians will not try to rescue Netanyahu from the deep trouble he put himself in as a result of his aggressive attitude and his government's rash actions.

Al Ra'i's Samir Qami criticised what he sees as the ongoing campaign in the British media against a death sentence handed down by a Saudi Arabian court against a British nurse convicted of murdering her colleague. The subject has been reported in the press and on radio for some time now, and the British government is clearly concerned and has discussed the verdict and sentence during its cabinet sessions, Qami said. The British media has been attacking Saudi Arabia for passing the verdict which convicted the British nurse, not of killing a Saudi citizen but an Australian nurse, said the writer who added that the campaign was actually being waged because the British do not accept a Third World country to pass judgement on the "former masters of the world." Qami said Britain knew all along that capital punishment in Saudi Arabia is carried out by beheading, but it never raised any protest against the practice until the sword came close to the neck of a British citizen. It seems, said the writer, that the beheading of criminals from the Third World does not stir any sympathetic feelings in Britain, but it certainly does when a criminal from the ancient empire is convicted and punished by a Third World people considered in London to be of lower class and inferior to the former masters of the world.

View from Academia

Something should be done to bring peace to Algeria

Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

THE LOSS of human life in Algeria, whatever the reasons and whoever is behind the killings, is painful indeed, especially to us in this part of the world who view Algeria as a "fraternal Arab country." Hardly a day goes by without us hearing about yet a new, dreadful massacre, the victims of which are innocent citizens — children, women, and men. The situation is certainly tragic, and the continuation of the shedding of innocent blood is not in any way acceptable.

But the situation is more than painful and tragic to us; it is also both puzzling and outrageous. In the last two decades of this millennium, we have witnessed all types of disasters, atrocities, acts of terror and horror, and chilling tragedies in many parts of the globe: Somalia, the Arabian Gulf, Bosnia, Rwanda, etc. But the situation in Algeria remains almost totally unparalleled and unique.

We understand (though by means approve) the shedding of blood when two neighbouring countries go into war for all kinds of reasons; Algeria is going to war against itself. We understand (though by means approve) the shedding of blood when a civil war breaks out (Somalia, Rwanda, etc.); but there is no civil war (as such) in Algeria. We understand the shedding of blood when conflicts are race-based or religion-based (Bosnia, etc.); but the conflict in

Algeria is neither racial nor religious.

Furthermore, we do not understand why the conflict is taking so long, why violence is aimed almost exclusively at ordinary people (children and women sitting unsuspectingly in the comfort of their homes or yards, students and teachers going to schools, pedestrians and passengers going to work, journalists, etc.) And we do not understand why the victims are killed in such a primitive, merciless manner.

More than all of this, we do not understand the silence and reticence of the Arab brethren. One expects the international community, represented by the United Nations, to take some interest in Algeria — an initiative of some sort, a fact-finding mission, the delegation of a mediator, etc. But one cannot expect much from the U.N., as some have argued, because the situation in Algeria is an internal matter and Algeria is an independent state. But one does expect much from the Arab World.

What is the Arab League for? Obviously, for many things. One of its major aims is the welfare (both collective and individual) of Arab countries. The Arab League is expected to do something not only when two Arab states are in conflict but when an individual Arab state suffers from a serious, prolonged tragedy. We understand,

of course, the Arab League's inclination to respect the independence of its member states. But there is a big difference between a passing internal matter, such as those happening once in a while in Arab countries, and a serious, drawn out conflict such as the present one in Algeria. The situation in Algeria is serious enough, "chronic" enough to merit or justify some earnest diplomatic initiative on part of the Arab League.

But if the Arab League is not inclined (either due to the impotence from which it has been suffering for some time or any other reason) to interfere or intervene, then the Arab leaders themselves are called upon to think of an initiative which ought to be coordinated and worked out with the Algerian government and whatever element in the opposition willing to cooperate. We certainly owe the Algerian brethren at least an attempt to get some sort of dialogue happening or a process started.

There are, of course, many troubling matters in the Arab World and many issues of concern at the collective as well as individual levels. Algeria, however, is one of the most serious and urgent. We hope to see some serious Arab action or initiative in the days ahead. Algeria has suffered long and paid a heavy price. Something should be done to bring security and peace to it.

Resuscitating the arms trade to help U.S. coffers

By Gwynne Dyer

THEY USED to be called "merchants of death," but that is a bit harsh given that 95 per cent of the weapons they sell go to the scrapyard without ever being used in anger. Try "merchants of poverty, tyranny and (occasionally) death." Because the arms-makers of the world are in trouble, and their only hope is to open up new markets in the developing world.

Two weeks ago, Enrique de la Torre, director of international security in the Argentine foreign ministry, urged the U.S. government not to lift its 20-year-old ban on the sale of high-tech weaponry to Latin America. Buenos Aires has cut its own defence spending deeply, he said, and it does not want to be forced into an arms race with Brazil and Chile.

Besides, de la Torre said, neither neighbour's armed forces are under full civilian control yet. Letting them have advanced weapons "could have major consequences for the region."

So what did U.S. President Bill Clinton do on Aug. 1? He lifted the ban, thus delighting the Pentagon, American arms manufacturers — and Latin American military officers. "Thanks for the good news," said one Argentine senior officer. "It means we can enter the circuit once again." It also means some major capital transfers from poor Latin American countries to the United States.

The international arms trade was always a cut-throat business, but since the end of the cold war it has become positively vicious. The total size of the market is shrinking, especially in the rich countries that used to be the biggest market for advanced weaponry: NATO's military spending has fallen about five per cent a year since 1992, and Russia's has dropped even more steeply.

The crisis in the arms trade is even more acute because the only other customers with free-spending ways, the oil-producing states of the Middle East, have pretty well completed the major rearmament purchases they began after the 1991 Gulf war. So if you want new customers, you must seek them among the relatively poor.

Even in the developing countries, military spending is down: arms sales to the Third World fell in 1995 for the fifth year in a row, to only \$15.4 billion. But the Third World is just about the only game in town — and that is where the United States has been losing market share.

Overall, the U.S. is still by far the world's biggest arms dealer. Its 1995 share of global sales was 43 per cent, down from 56 per cent in 1994 but still more than Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany com-

The international arms trade was always a cut-throat business, but since the end of the cold war it has become positively vicious.

hined. However, in 1995, after an almost total collapse of arms exports when the Soviet Union broke up in 1991, Russia finally got back in the game in a big way.

The Russian arms industry, a vital source of jobs and foreign exchange for the limping Russian economy, restructured, cut its prices — and in 1995 it roared back into the global market, quadrupling its market share to 17 per cent. More importantly, in terms of its psychological impact, Russia actually overtook the United States in arms sales to the developing countries; Russia \$6 billion, U.S. \$3.8 billion.

Now, the truth is that the Russians achieved this success mostly by selling weapons to countries that were its traditional customers (like India, which bought 40 Sukhoi-30 fighters for between \$1.5 and \$2 billion), or to countries the U.S. refuses to sell arms to, like China and Iran. But American arms manufacturers were still shocked — and then there arose this curious combination of insult and opportunity in Latin America.

President Jimmy Carter originally banned sales of advanced U.S. weaponry to Latin America in the 1970s, when most countries in the region were suffering under brutal military regimes. That is no longer true, but the ban has survived the restoration of democracy in almost all those countries because it made such good sense.

No Latin American country really plots to conquer its neighbours, so they do not actually need the high-tech toys. Military professionals always use the neighbours' military hardware as an excuse to demand more for themselves, but if nobody in the region is buying advanced weaponry, then, their argument evaporates.

No law prevented Latin Americans from shopping elsewhere for arms, but the disciples of the cold war froze the Russians out, and London's close relationship with Washington kept Britain out. The French and Israelis made a few sales, but over two decades the Carter ban probably saved Latin

America tens of billions of dollars. And then came the Peru-Ecuador border war of 1995.

It was the smallest and silliest of wars: 80 soldiers killed along a stretch of unmarked jungle frontier where the local tribes neither knew nor cared which country they were in. But in the aftermath, both Peru and Ecuador went shopping for arms — and when Ecuador bought some Israeli-made Kfir fighters, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori went to the Russians.

More precisely, he went to the Russians who had some ex-Soviet MiG-29 fighters sitting around that they were willing to sell at a knock-down price. The Russians were so cross at being cut out of the deal by Belarus that they refused to provide Peru with spares and service, which makes the long-run usefulness of the MiG-29s pretty doubtful. But that was precisely the lever that the U.S. arms industry needed: Russian arms being bought by Latin Americans!

So the lobbyists in Washington did their work, and Clinton buckled under the pressure, and McDonnell Douglas is already offering to sell F-16s to Chile.

"This decision puts U.S. arms transfer policy towards Latin America on a par with our policy towards other regions of the world and will be implemented in a way that serves our policy of promoting stability, restraint and cooperation in the region," said White House spokesman Mike McCurry.

But if everybody in Latin America is going to be stable, restrained and cooperative — as they very likely will be — then exactly what are all those arms actually for? Why, to transfer wealth from Latin America to the United States, of course.

Sedating the guilt of Deir Yassin

By Ray Hanania

NO BUILDING or monument can truly capture the significance that the Palestinian village of Deir Yassin has had on the people of Palestine and their fate.

On the early morning of April 9, 1948, members of two Jewish terrorist organisations, the Irgun Ziv Leumi, led by Polish revisionist fanatic Menachem Begin, and the Stern Gang, attacked the village of 750 residents, slaughtering 254 of its civilian inhabitants. Only 10 of the attackers died, victims of outdated musket fire from disorganised village residents.

To emphasise their murderous deed, the Irgun paraded 25 male prisoners in an open truck that drove through the streets of Jerusalem, a further warning to Palestinians in other outlying villages to flee their homes or find themselves victims, too. These "trophies" of Zionist madness were then taken to a quarry where they were executed by their Irgun captors. The remaining residents of Deir Yassin were thrown into the street and evicted from their homes.

Although the barbarism of the massacre that took place has become legendary, the real horror of that morning was felt across the country in the coming weeks, as the British Mandate ended, and Jewish forces spread the word of the vicious killing of men, women and children.

The original purpose of the assault was to establish the Irgun as a serious military force, equal in stature to the Haganah. Both saw Deir Yassin as strategically important to their cause, hoping to evict the residents and use the abandoned village as an airfield that would be used to supply Jewish fighters in Jerusalem.

Today, only weeds and wild olive trees mark the village that was destroyed by the new state of Israel. And, in the towering shadow of Israel's great inhumanity, the Jewish state erected an ironic memorial to the

six million Jews slaughtered by the Nazis during World War II and called it Yad Vashem. On its walls are engraved the names of every Jew mur-

Of all the places where Yad Vashem could be built, Israel chose the land near the remains of the former Palestinian village of Deir Yassin.

dered by the Nazis. While the Yad Vashem recounts in memorabilia, photos and words the horrors of the Holocaust, not a whisper is heard in the stillness of the nearby land where 254 men, women and children were systematically butchered by wild and rampaging fanatic followers of Menachem Begin.

Of all the places where Yad Vashem could be built, Israel chose the land near the remains of the former Palestinian village of Deir Yassin.

Possibly, the architects of this great monument that is intended to remind the world of the great atrocities of the Nazis against the Jewish people, also meant it to serve as a sedative to erase from the memories of the world the silent cries of the 254 Palestinian dead of Deir Yassin.

How often, I wondered, had Menachem Begin walked to the grounds of Yad Vashem, looking just to the north, to contemplate the history of the Jews? As Israel's prime minister, did Begin ever once express remorse for the massacre that occurred in the fields below his gaze?

Obviously, the crime of taking an innocent life can be measured in relative standards by the Israelis. Six million murdered Jews far outweighs the worth,

to them, of 254 murdered Palestinians. Maybe that distinction helped Begin live with his great crime, sedating any feelings of regret that might have crossed his guilty brow as he stared across the barren field of what had once been a bustling but humble Palestinian town.

For many Palestinians, the murder of the 254 residents of Deir Yassin symbolised the beginnings of a Palestinian Holocaust, of sorts. How many Palestinian villages have been destroyed by the government of Israel, their purpose to forcibly remove Palestinians from Israeli territories, or to re-use the Palestinian villages for new, exclusively Jewish settlements? Some estimates put the number of Palestinian villages destroyed and eradicated at more than 400.

The attack against Deir Yassin accentuated the fears of the Palestinians, as it coincided with news of the death of Palestinian Freedom Fighter Abdul Qader Al Hussein, who had returned only months before from exile to lead a Palestinian uprising against the Irgun and the Haganah.

There is no marker for Deir Yassin. There is no stone for Abdel Qader Al Hussein.

The praise of Deir Yassin is located near Jerusalem, between the Jewish settlements of Givat Shaul, founded in 1902, and Har Nof on the western slopes of the nearby mountains. Givat Shaul was expanded, with Jerusalem, to include the former Palestinian village. Givat Shaul Bet marks the center of what little remains of Deir Yassin.

It is not easy to find the spot. Who remembers the names of the 254 innocent Palestinian civilians who died in that village on a cool morning nearly 50 years ago? Fifty years.

How long does it take for history and time to erase the painful memory of this great Arab tragedy?

Ray Hanania is a Palestinian American writer. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times

LETTERS

One Israeli apology

To the Editor:

GOVERNMENTS ARE responsible for the behaviour of their citizens, but individuals cannot always be held responsible for the misdeeds of their government. Nevertheless, as an Israeli, I wish to convey to you my feelings of shock and outrage at, and my sincerest apologies for, the unwarranted offence to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which according to reports in the media had been committed on my behalf as a citizen of Israel. Although I can only speak for myself, I am sure that this sentiment is shared by many of my compatriots.

Prof. Ephraim Kleiman
Department of Economics
The Hebrew University

Thanking one American

To the Editor:

I WOULD like to thank Mr. Hendrik S. Weiler for the letter "What's in it for us?" (Jordan Times, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 1997). It is heartening to hear one honest American speak the "truth" about what exactly is the situation in the Middle East. The three significant interests of America in the Middle East, which Mr. Hendrik mentioned, are indeed: 1. cheap and secure oil 2. Israel 3. U.S. political and military domination, a fact that has without doubt realised by every Arab in this part of the world. Even our legal right to fight occupation has been twisted and given the name "terrorism" by Israel and the U.S. although the highest act of terror in the 20th century took place in 1948, when the entire Palestinian nation was uprooted and handed over to complete strangers. Terrorism is what is practised daily on the Palestinians in their own homeland — demolitions of homes, medieval torture of prisoners, shooting and killing with live ammunition, the confiscating of land, etc. But where is the voice of the American people in all of this? Israel and the Jewish lobby in the U.S. are manipulating the Americans, the good and honest people who pay their taxes and care about their country. Don't these Americans have a say towards the unjust and hateful policies perpetrated on the Palestinians, the Iraqis and other peoples of this part of the world?

Sumaya E. Shaker
Amman

Perfect

By Robert J. Flinn

Computers have been around for a long time, but they have only recently become a part of our daily lives. They are used in everything from banking to education, from business to entertainment. They are the most powerful tools we have ever created, and they are only getting more powerful. In the future, they will be even more integrated into our lives, and they will be able to do even more things. They will be able to think for themselves, and they will be able to learn from their mistakes. They will be able to create new things, and they will be able to improve themselves. They will be able to do everything that we can do, and they will be able to do it better than we can. They will be perfect.

SCOPE

OCTOBER 9, 1997

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Capricorn: influence... It affects the... Today, Neptune is in the local college is a... of tickets.

your friends could come by... first thing this morning... you feel wonderful... romantic interlude will... the weekend.

ADREN: like you're in the... not literally the... time left to get the job... people have to realize... Help them remain...

be breakdown, break... general breakdown. Mo... You're standing off to... are having the mo... Arias and Cacer...

some people think Virgo... not true. Virgo is... isn't hard working... you may be attracted... and optimistic.

face a situation with... and dreams... partially... through the sign of... to complete a... there's nothing... your life... There's nothing... keep... Black... partner... your life... The day... you... a little... That with...

ALF. By Glasbey

than... I tell you... peaking...

THAT SUMMER...

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Health insurance fee to be raised to 3% of total salary and allowances

**** CIVIL SERVANTS** and retired government personnel will have three per cent deducted from their salaries and allowances as a health insurance fee instead of two per cent. Health Minister Ashraf Kurdi told journalists recently. He did not specify a date to implement the higher charge which, he stressed, will not affect the poor. The minister said he requested the Cabinet to increase the budget of the Ministry of Health to JD150 million from JD106 million to enable the ministry perform its duty at the highest level.

Dr. Kurdi announced that the general health insurance scheme for all citizens will start from next year through the establishment of the "Jordanian Corporation for General Health Insurance" and called for a "comprehensive health revolution" to bring the Jordanian health sector up to the aspired level.

According to Dr. Kurdi, the ministry's "health spending" alone accounted for JD85 million of the budget. He said JD21.5 million were spent on civil servants and families covered by the state health insurance and JD38.5 million on the (financially) capable group. Speeding on military personnel and the poor class amounted to JD20.5 million and JD4.5 million. The minister classified the poor as those carrying "assistance cards" from the National Aid Fund.

The health insurance fees paid by civil servants and military personnel provided the ministry with only JD7.5 million and JD100,000 of revenue, the minister indicated. He pointed out that occupational injuries and road accidents cost the treasury around JD14 million and, as such, he said a need to establish a special medical centre to treat people who suffer occupational or road injuries.

Dr. Kurdi said the ministry intends to hire all university graduates in the field of hospital management. He also mentioned that the ministry is inclined to unify all public laboratories in the Kingdom and affiliate them with the ministry. He said: "It is unbelievable to have about quarter of a million food tests conducted annually by the Municipality of Greater Amman, the Institute of Standards and Specifications, the Royal Scientific Society and the Ministry of Health." The minister emphasised that these tests can be done at the ministry.

"The ministry will unify all tenders for supplies of medicines and medical requirements for all health sectors in the country to cut down on waste as much as possible," he concluded (Al Rai).

Eizenstat stresses need to enforce intellectual property rights

(Continued from page 8)

He described the summit as an "economic opportunity for the region and not a political process."

"It will be an opportunity for Jordan and Egypt to show the economic reforms they made... It will also provide access to business leaders around the world," said Mr. Eizenstat.

Expressing Washington's support of Jordan's efforts in pushing the peace process forward, Mr. Eizenstat said the U.S. urged Israel to move forward with plans to establish a joint Aqaba peace airport.

He said that previously the U.S. provided half a million dollars for a detailed feasibility study for the airport, adding that it plans to invest an additional \$150,000 to provide technical assistance to Jordan and Israel to manage and operate such a joint airport facility.

Earlier Wednesday, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other senior government members meeting with Mr. Eizenstat and U.S. officials Wednesday (Petra photo)

Mr. Eizenstat met with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and discussed U.S.-Jordan relations.

They also discussed the importance of increasing the balance of trade between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority in order to enhance economic growth in the area.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates

Prices as at 8/10/97 19:26

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF
US Dollar	1.7548	0.6183	1.4479	121.04	1.3713	1720.00	1.9745
DE Mark	0.5699	1.0000	0.3521	0.8253	0.7812	981.01	1.1284
GB Sterling	1.6173	2.8374	1.0000	0.7812	2.2178	2781.58	3.1827
CH Franc	0.6907	121.16	0.4285	1.0000	0.9468	1188.26	1.3853
JP Yen	0.0083	1.4490	0.5101	1.1951	1.1322	14.18	163.08
SA Dollar	0.7292	1.2218	0.4610	1.0570	1.13	1228.40	1.4433
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0000	0.3334	0.8642	0.7877	71.85	0.8265
NL Guilder	0.5065	88.74	0.3127	73.27	61.19	0.8042	889.21
FR Franc	0.1700	0.2978	0.1048	24.5552	20.52	0.2327	33.5000

Middle Eastern Currencies

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAR	AED	IRQ	EGP
US Dollar	0.7080	3.7504	0.3770	3.6402	0.3040	3.6729	1.536.00	1.3980
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	1.0000	5.2972	0.5325	5.1415	5.1877	2189.48	4.7994
Saudi Riyal	0.2686	0.1888	1.0000	0.1005	0.97	0.0811	0.98	409.58
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8780	9.9480	1.0000	9.86	9.8064	9.74	4074.27
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0303	1.0303	0.9835	1.01	421.95	0.9835
Kuwait Dinar	3.2895	2.3298	12.3368	1.2401	11.97	12.08	5052.63	0.9335
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0211	1.0208	0.9911	0.0828	418.20	0.9252
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4609	2.4417	0.2654	2.3889	0.1979	2.3812	2.2122
Egyptian	0.2943	0.2084	1.1037	0.1109	1.0713	0.0895	1.0899	452.03

Energy

Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	21.19	21.02
WTI	22.23	21.85
Bonny	21.19	21.02
Dubai	19.10	19.10
UL Gas	197.00	196.00

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL
SA Riyal	0.2686	0.4890	0.1048	0.3862	32.296	32.977
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.478	0.1083	0.3844	32.977	32.977
KW Dinar	3.2895	5.7737	2.0338	4.7842	398.41	398.41
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.6558	1.8389	3.8417	321.23	321.23
CY Pound	1.922	3.3892	1.1868	2.78	232.32	232.32

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Currency	Period	Rate	Currency	Period	Rate
USD	5.53	5.82	USD	5.53	5.82
GBP	7.10	7.25	GBP	7.10	7.25
JPY	0.42	0.42	JPY	0.42	0.42
DEM	3.08	3.28	DEM	3.08	3.28
FRF	3.22	3.31	FRF	3.22	3.31
CHF	1.33	1.35	CHF	1.33	1.35
ITL	8.73	8.53	ITL	8.73	8.53

JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.465	1.452
DE Mark	0.4018	0.4038
CH Franc	0.4876	0.49
FR Franc	0.1198	0.1202
JP Yen	0.5788	0.5818
NL Guilder	0.3567	0.3585
IT Lira	0.4087	0.4117

Main Equity Indices

Index	Value	Change	Index	Value	Change
New York DOW JONES	8091.38	-88.93	London FT-SE 100	5282.1	-43.5
New York S&P 500	972.28	-10.84	Tokyo NIKKEI 225	17619.18	107.99
Paris CAC 40	3024.08	-40.34	Frankfurt DAX	4347.24	38.85

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 08/10/1997

PAST 12 MONTHS

COMPANY'S NAME

P / E

DIV.

NO. OF SHARES

NO. OF TRADING

VALUE TRADED JD

OPEN PRICE

CLOSE PRICE

CHANGE

BANK SECTOR TOTALS

INDEX: 240.23

ICMG: +0.03

126

145769

619277

INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS

INDEX: 114.70

ICMG: +0.11

17

30150

57465

SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS

INDEX: 110.83

ICMG: -0.47

78

91210

142712

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS

INDEX: 119.01

ICMG: -0.31

166

111039

199074

GRAND TOTAL

INDEX: 173.73

ICMG: -0.11

407

378168

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PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 08/10/1997

INDEX: 173.73

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NEW 12 MONTHS HIGH

NEW 12 MONTHS LOW

LISTED DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS

P / E RATIO 100 OR MORE

NEGATIVE P / E

EARNING IS ZERO OR N/A FOR THE MOST RECENT YEAR

Qatar Airways plans to go public in 2 years

MANAMA (R) — Qatar Airways plans to convert to a public company in two years by offering its shares to private investors, its chief executive said in remarks published Tuesday.

"We are a private company and we are in no need to issue our results. But we will do so when Qatar Airways is converted to a public company which we hope will take place in two years from now," Akbar Al Bakker told the Arabic-language Al Hayat daily.

Mr. Bakker said the airline — which is 70 per cent owned by the Qatar ruling family with the foreign minister as its chairman — would then offer its shares to the public.

He expected the number of passengers flying with Qatar Airways to more than double to 750,000 in the current financial year which started in April 1997 from 350,000 the previous year.

Mr. Bakker expected the number to reach 950,000 in the 1998/99 financial year.

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Bulls' Pippen out for two or three months

CHICAGO (AFP) — Scottie Pippen, the National Basketball Association All-Star forward for reigning champions Chicago, will be sidelined for two to three months following surgery on his left foot.

The operation, performed on Monday in New York and revealed here on Tuesday, leaves the Bulls shorthanded with the club's season opener barely three weeks away.

"Everyone always realized the importance of Scottie Pippen," Chicago star Michael Jordan said. "He has always been a major part of our success."

"It gives some other players an opportunity to step forward."

Maybe some of the other players on other teams will take us for granted and underestimate our capabilities."

Surgery was performed by team orthopaedic surgeon Michael Lewis on the second-largest toe of Pippen's left foot.

"We're sorry to lose Scottie," Bulls general manager Jerry Krause said. "This is a blow to us, but hopefully we'll be able to overcome it."

Pippen, a member of the 1992 and 1996 US Olympic gold medal "Dream Teams," has teamed with Jordan to lead the Bulls to five NBA titles in the past seven years.

The 32-year-old Pippen suffered the injury in last season's NBA semi-finals against Miami, but played in pain as the Bulls beat Utah in six games to capture the NBA finals.

But three months of rest has not solved the problem. Pippen skipped his own charity All-Star game late last month and has been unable to practice since training camp began last week.

"The decision had to be made by Scottie and the doctors," Krause said. "We tried very hard to treat it conservatively through the summer. It did not respond to treat-



The Chicago Bulls will begin their defence of their NBA title without Scottie Pippen, shown battling for possession with Alan Henderson (R) of the Atlanta Hawks on May 11, 1997, after the All-Star forward underwent surgery on his ailing left foot that will keep him out of action for two to three months (Reuters photo)

ment." Pippen's absence will make it very difficult for the Bulls to be as overpowering as they have been in the past two seasons, when they rolled to 72 and 69 regular-season game wins and had home-court advantage throughout the entire playoff schedule.

Pippen is considered the NBA's top all-around player, while Jordan is the league's best scorer

and Bulls' teammate Dennis Rodman dominates in rebounding. Losing Pippen will diminish Chicago's scoring punch. Pippen played all 82 games last season and was second on the team with averages of 20.2 points and 6.5 rebounds a game. His 5.7 assists a game were second to Detroit's Grant Hill among all forwards. The injury also hurts

Pippen because he is entering the final year of his contract with the Bulls. He was the subject of off-season trade talks but Jordan threatened to retire if Pippen was transferred and Krause stopped the deal. Scott Burrell, obtained from Golden State in Chicago's first trade in nearly two years, is expected to replace Pippen in the starting lineup.

Suleymanoglu rules out World Championships

SOFIA (AFP) — Triple Olympic Naim Suleymanoglu, known as Pocket Hercules, will not compete in the World Weightlifting Championships in Dec 5-15.

However, Turkey's biggest sporting hero, who was visiting Bulgaria for the first time since defecting in 1986 while at a World Cup meeting in Melbourne, did not rule out

competing at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. He said he would retire after winning at last year's Atlanta Olympics and has not done enough training to be competitive at this year's world championships.

Suleymanoglu, an ethnic Turk, is a seven-times world and European champion, three-times World Cup winner and has broken 60 world records.

Dodgers' Nomo has elbow surgery

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Japan's Hideo Nomo, the Los Angeles Dodgers' right-handed pitcher who struggled through the 1997 season, underwent arthroscopic surgery in his right elbow here Tuesday.

Nomo, the 1995 National League rookie of the year, had loose organic bits removed from the elbow joint in the operation performed by Frank Jobe and Centinela Hospital Medical Center.

Nomo, 29, will not be able to throw for at least two months and will return to Japan to begin rehabilitation. After going 13-6 with a 2.54 earned-run average in 1995 and winning 16 games in 1996,

Nomo has had tougher times against major league batters. He went 14-12 this year with a 4.25 earned-run average in 33 starts.

Nomo became the 20th and most recent Dodger to throw a no-hitter, beating Colorado 9-0 in September of 1996.

Gascoigne risks police detention

ROME (AFP) — Paul Gascoigne could find himself being detained by Italian police as he prepares to face Italy in England's crucial World Cup qualifier, it was reported on Wednesday.

Gascoigne's legal troubles date back to his spell here at Lazio and an incident in Rome's city centre on January 27, 1994, when the midfielder assaulted paparazzi photographer Lino Nanni.

He was convicted in his absence on March 17 this year and given a suspended jail sentence of three months, plus legal costs of 1.8 million lira (\$1,000) and damages to be decided at a later date, according to the Gazzetta dello Sport.

However, Nanni's lawyer Edmondo Zappacosta told the paper that Gascoigne has not been in touch about the affair, and that the

Italians now want to use the player's presence here to press their case.

Questioned over what could be his next move, Zappacosta told the Gazzetta: "Asking the judge for the player to be detained as a precautionary measure, given that he is in Rome until Sunday."

"Gascoigne has been notified at every stage of the case at his home in England, but has always ignored the affair. He hasn't even appointed a lawyer, which has had to be done for him."

"All we are asking for today is a gesture of goodwill to settle the matter. Because one thing is certain, sooner or later the player will have to pay Nanni damages."

"There is no escaping Italian justice," he warned.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Douglas comeback hits snag

UNCAVILLE, Connecticut (AFP) — Former heavyweight champion James "Buster" Douglas will fight fellow American John Ruiz here on Saturday, suffering an injured hand in training. Douglas has won fights in a comeback bid after eating himself into a threatening situation following his loss of the world crown to Evander Holyfield in 1990. A 10th-round knockout of Mike Tyson in Tokyo earlier that year gave Douglas his place in history. His revival after squandering it has come in hopes of finding a title rematch against Holyfield or a lucrative payday in a possible rematch with Tyson, now banished from the sport for biting Holyfield's ear last June.

Packers make deal at deadline

GREEN BAY (AFP) — Reigning National Football League champion Green Bay made the first major transfer in a decade on the NFL's trading deadline, dispatching linebacker Wayne Simmons to Kansas City. The Chiefs sent an undisclosed draft choice to the Packers, who found the fifth-year veteran expendable with the another veteran linebacker Seth Joyner available — he will now have a greater opportunity to play. Simmons brings some security to the Chiefs, who have been without linebacker Derrick Thomas for four weeks due to a left triceps injury. The 27-year-old Simmons made 76 tackles and 2 1/2 sacks last year to help the Packers take the Super Bowl title. To make room for Simmons, the Chiefs released receiver Brett Perriman, who had only six catches for 83 yards in five games this season.

Swansea sack Molby

LONDON (AFP) — English third Division side Swansea sacked their manager Jan Molby on Wednesday after their poor start to the season. The former Liverpool and Danish international had his contract terminated by the Welsh club and assistant manager Billy Ayre has also been sacked. Youth team manager Alan Curtis will take over until a new manager is appointed.

Munich 1860 and Karlsruhe replay

FRANKFURT (AFP) — The German Football Federation's federal court has ordered the Bundesliga match between Munich 1860 and Karlsruhe to be replayed because of a referee's mistake. The court ruled that the referee, Michael Maehlmann, had blown his whistle prior to Sean Dundee scoring Karlsruhe's second goal which tied the match at 2-2 — the final result. It is only the second time since the Bundesliga began in 1963 that a match has been ordered to be replayed.

Third Portuguese coach is fired

LISBON (AFP) — Portuguese First Division side Belenenses have sacked their Bulgarian coach Stoicho Mladenov — making him the third managerial casualty since the start of the season. Mladenov paid the price for Belenenses lying joint bottom of the league with just three points from six matches. Leca, who share bottom place with Belenenses, sacked their coach Rodolfo Reis on Monday while Benfica ended Manuel Jose's term two weeks ago.

Brolin turns down Brazilian move

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Leeds United's unsettled Swedish international striker Tomas Brolin has turned down an offer to join Brazilian side Portuguesa. The 27-year-old Brolin, who inspired Sweden to third place at the 1994 World Cup finals and also appeared in the 1990 finals, has been keen to leave Leeds since the beginning of the 1996-97 season and enjoyed a brief spell back at his former Serie A side Parma last season though a permanent deal also fell through.

Wang beats Olympic medallist

SHANGHAI (AFP) — Wang Tianling beat Olympic silver medalist Yu Zhuocheng to the men's one-metre springboard at the All China Games here Tuesday. Wang trailed Yu by 16.16 points going into the last dive but beat his rival into second place with a nearly flawless final dive which scored 79.2 points. Yu slipped on the board on his last dive and scored only 59.45 points. Yu teamed up with Barcelona Olympic platform champion Sun Shuwei and another star diver Lan Wei to anchor the men's team title on Sunday.

Townsend out of World Cup clash

DUBLIN (AFP) — Republic of Ireland skipper Andy Townsend has pulled out of the crucial World Cup game against Romania on Saturday. The 33-year-old Middlesbrough midfielder is to have a scan after picking up a knee injury in the first division game against Sheffield United on Sunday. The former Aston Villa player could also be doubtful for the League Cup tie with local rivals Sunderland at the Riverside Stadium next week.

Job prefers Cameroon to France

PARIS (AFP) — Nineteen-year-old Joseph-Desire Job, 13 goals in 14 matches for French first division side Lyon, has staked his future in Cameroon. Job, who has dual nationality, had been picked for the French Under 21 side to play Switzerland on Sunday but the Cameroon federation told him they wanted him for the African Nations Cup in Burkina Faso in February and next summer's World Cup finals in France.

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Marlins beat error

MIAMI (AFP) — The Florida Marlins beat the New York Yankees 4-3 in a game that was a defensive masterpiece for the Marlins. The Marlins' pitcher, Tim Lincecum, pitched a complete game, allowing only three runs on five hits and two walks. The Marlins' catcher, Jeff Heath, made a crucial throw to first base to get out of a bases-loaded jam in the seventh inning. The Marlins' manager, Jack McKeown, praised his team's defensive effort.

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BRIEF

Hits snag

(AFP) — Former world champion "Buster" Douglas will not fight here on Saturday after losing to Mike Tyson in a rematch. Douglas has been in a slump since his loss to Tyson in 1996. He is expected to fight a title contender in a possible rematch in the sport for boxing.

at deadline

Reigning champion made the final deadline for the choice to Kansas City. The choice was made by the league's executive committee. The choice was made by the league's executive committee. The choice was made by the league's executive committee.

why

A third Division I team on Wednesday. The team was named after the city of Kansas. The team was named after the city of Kansas. The team was named after the city of Kansas.

Karlsruhe replay

The team was named after the city of Karlsruhe. The team was named after the city of Karlsruhe. The team was named after the city of Karlsruhe. The team was named after the city of Karlsruhe.

coach is fired

The coach was fired. The coach was fired. The coach was fired. The coach was fired. The coach was fired. The coach was fired. The coach was fired. The coach was fired.

Brazilian move

The Brazilian move. The Brazilian move. The Brazilian move. The Brazilian move. The Brazilian move. The Brazilian move. The Brazilian move. The Brazilian move.

Olympic medalist

The Olympic medalist. The Olympic medalist. The Olympic medalist. The Olympic medalist. The Olympic medalist. The Olympic medalist. The Olympic medalist. The Olympic medalist.

World Cup clash

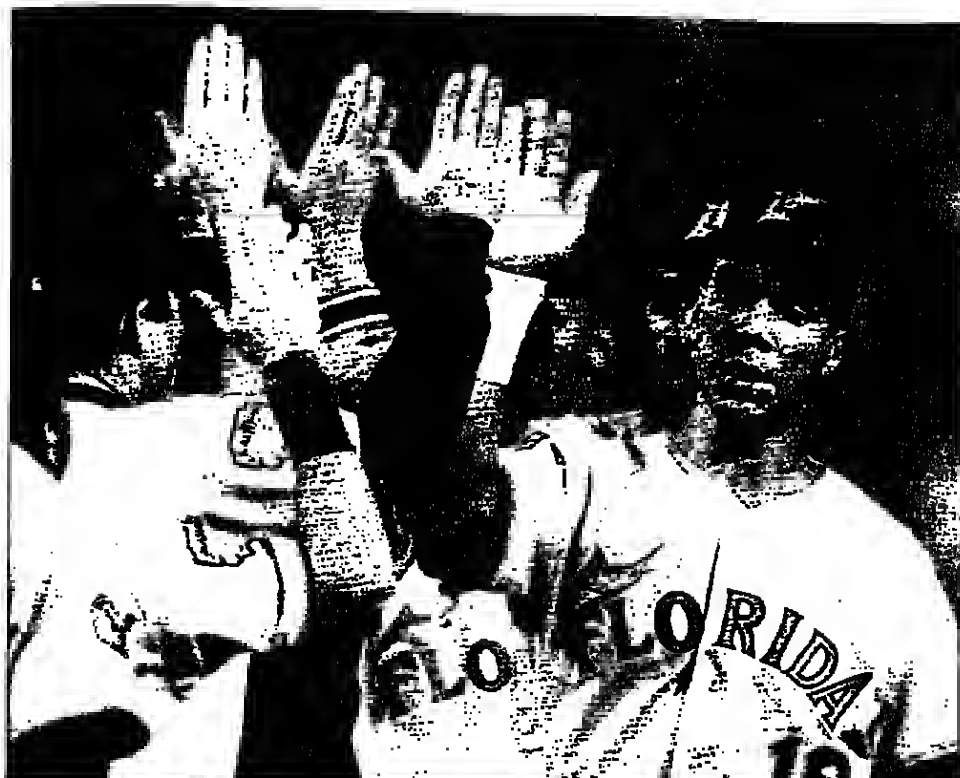
The World Cup clash. The World Cup clash. The World Cup clash. The World Cup clash. The World Cup clash. The World Cup clash. The World Cup clash. The World Cup clash.

Aerobics to France

The Aerobics to France. The Aerobics to France. The Aerobics to France. The Aerobics to France. The Aerobics to France. The Aerobics to France. The Aerobics to France. The Aerobics to France.

The Government

The Government. The Government. The Government. The Government. The Government. The Government. The Government. The Government.



Florida Marlins' Moises Alou slaps hands with teammates after the Florida Marlins defeated the Atlanta Braves 5-3 in game one of the NLCS. Alou drove in three runs with a bases loaded double in the first inning (Reuters photo)

Marlins beat error-prone Braves

ATLANTA (AFP) — Atlanta defensive errors gave Florida three runs in the first inning, powering the upset-minded Marlins past Atlanta 5-3 Tuesday to open the National League Championship Series.

The Marlins, wild-card playoff qualifiers after finishing second to Atlanta in the NL East division, won eight of 12 from the Braves in the regular season before grabbing the opener in the best-of-seven matchup.

Now the fifth-year club, which spent \$90 million on free agent talent before the season, is three victories away from a first-ever World Series berth. The Braves seek their fifth berth in their past six tries.

Atlanta first baseman Fred McGriff's error loaded the bases in the first inning and third baseman Jones failed to glove a bouncing ground ball by Moises Alou, allowing three runs to score.

"It was a tough pop," Alou said. "I didn't hit the ball that good. I guess I got a break."

Marlins' 16-game winner Kevin Brown out-pitched Atlanta ace Greg Maddux, who allowed no earned runs but was betrayed by the Braves' mistake-prone defense, which made two errors and two other poor plays.

"We just didn't catch the ball," Atlanta manager Bobby Cox said. "If we catch the ball, we win the ball game."

Brown was not particularly sharp, allowing home runs to Chipper Jones and Ryan Klesko. But staked to a three-run lead before throwing a pitch. Brown notched his first career playoff victory, allowing three runs and five hits in six innings, walking four and striking out three.

Left-handed reliever Den-

Baseball Postseason Glance

Division series

- American League
Baltimore wins series 3-1
Cleveland wins series 3-2
- National League
Atlanta wins series 3-0
Florida wins series 3-0

League Championship series

- American League
Thursday, Oct. 9 Cleveland at Baltimore (key 16-10)
Saturday, Oct. 11 Baltimore (Mussina 15-8) at Cleveland
Sunday, Oct. 12 Baltimore at Cleveland
Monday, Oct. 13 Baltimore at Cleveland, if necessary
Wednesday, Oct. 15 Cleveland at Baltimore, if necessary
Thursday, Oct. 16 Cleveland at Baltimore, if necessary

- National League
Friday, Oct. 10
Atlanta (Smoltz 15-12) at Florida (Leiter 11-9)
Saturday, Oct. 11 Atlanta at Florida
Sunday, Oct. 12 Atlanta at Florida, if necessary
Tuesday, Oct. 14 Florida at Atlanta, if necessary
Wednesday, Oct. 15 Florida at Atlanta, if necessary

World Series

- Saturday, Oct. 18 American League champion at National League champion
Sunday, Oct. 19 AL at NL
Tuesday, Oct. 21 NL at AL
Wednesday, Oct. 22 NL at AL
Thursday, Oct. 23 NL at AL if necessary
Saturday, Oct. 25 AL at NL, if necessary
Sunday, Oct. 26 AL at NL, if necessary

nis Cook pitched two scoreless innings, striking out two, before Rohn Nen retired the Braves in order in the ninth inning.

Maddux, a four-time league Most Valuable Pitcher, won 19 games in the regular season but could not solve the Marlins. Still, Florida slugger Gary Sheffield does not feel confident entering Wednesday's second game.

"You never can feel comfortable against these guys," Sheffield said. "They have the best pitchers in the world. Hopefully you can get a pitch where you can hit it."

The Marlins can now take

Kuerten through but Kafelnikov crashes out

VIENNA (AFP) — French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil progressed to the second round of the ATP tournament here on Tuesday with a three set win over Spaniard Albert Costa but the 1996 French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia crashed out in straight sets.

Kuerten beat Costa 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (7/2) leaving the unfortunate Spaniard still without a career win on the indoor circuit while the top seeded Kafelnikov, who was suffering from a back problem, saw his chances of making the ATP championships in Hanover virtually disappear going down 4-6, 5-7 to Slovakian Karol Kucera.

The 21-year-old Kuerten, seeded five here and ranked 11 in the world, came from a break down in the final set against the 20th ranked Costa to take the tiebreak easily — rounding off the match with first an exquisitely disguised drop shot followed on match point by an overhead smash.

Costa, who won in Barcelona and Marbella during the outdoor season, had only himself to blame as he had served for the first set leading 5-4 only to serve two double faults to hand the Brazilian the break back.

Kuerten then broke Costa again and served out with the minimum of fuss to take the first set.

Costa hit back in the second set breaking Kuerten to go 3-1 up and despite failing to convert two set points, losing one with yet another double fault, he finally levelled the tie when the handa wearing Brazilian sent a cross court forehand wide.

Another former French Open winner and crowd favourite Thomas Muster of Austria sailed through his encounter with Moroccan Hicham Arazi 6-2, 6-2.

The 30-year-old sixth seeded Muster, bidding to win this tournament for the first time in 12 attempts, was in sublime form against his young Moroccan opponent who was tasting defeat in the first round of a tournament for the eighth time this year.

Third seed Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia had a tough three setter with Dane Fredrik Fetterlein before coming through 6-3 in the third set while the 1996 Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands trounced Belgian Filip De Wulf, who beat Muster to take this title in 1995, in straight sets.

Wednesday's play in the tournament, which features 18 individual winners from this year, pits Great Britain's world number four Greg Rusedski against Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine and then Rusedski's compatriot Tim Henman takes on Spaniard Felix Mantilla.

Graf on target for return at Australian Open

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Former World No. 1 Steffi Graf is still on course for a comeback at the Australian Open in January, organisers said Wednesday.

Graf is recovering from knee surgery in June, which has been the main cause of her world ranking falling to Number 15.

Australian Open tournament director Paul McNamee said Graf was "gunning" for the Australian title. "That's Steffi's own words."

"She has had a fairly serious knee operation and is going through rehabilitation. She needs to go through that process and get out there and play matches," he said.

"All of her psyche and preparation are to be ready, certainly in advance of the 1998 Australian Open," McNamee said.

"So assuming everything goes well with Steffi she'll be here, there's no doubt about that," he added.

The tournament from January 19 to February 1 at the Melbourne Park stadium is expected to attract most top women players.

New number one, Martina Hingis of Switzerland, will defend her title and Monica Seles will also be bidding for the first 1998 Grand Slam prize.

Heat could stop Australian Open

MELBOURNE (AFP) —

Australian Open matches may be halted if temperatures reach the searing level that brought protests from top players this year, organisers said Wednesday.

Organisers started discussions with players' organisations and medical experts two months ago and expected to have a new heat policy ready in advance of the next Open in January.

"We are working in consultation with the many parties which are concerned" about a comprehensive policy, said tournament director Paul McNamee.

He said it would cover not only such questions as breaks in matches in extreme heat and closing the roof of the centre court, but under what circumstances they would consider suspending play.

Geoff Pollard, president of Tennis Australia, said: "We could be setting a

precedent."

McNamee stressed that it broke new ground and that the policy applied here could affect other tournaments around the world.

Temperatures soaring into the high 30s Celsius had players reeling, exhausted at this year's Open and a controversial policy was adopted of closing the centre court roof for matches from the quarter finals on when the temperature hit 35 degrees Celsius.

The tournament, which is the first of next year's Grand Slam events, will be held from January 19 to February 1 and prize money will be increased five per cent to 10 million Australian dollars (\$7.3m).

The gap between the men's and women's prize money remains has been narrowed, with women now playing for 93 per cent of the amount the men get.

Almost all of the top 20 ranked men and women are

expected to play, including defending singles champions Pete Sampras and Martina Hingis.

There will be a keen home interest in the tournament as Australia's U.S. Open champion Patrick Rafter is set to become the first seeded Australian since Pat Cash in 1989.

Monica Seles and Andre Agassi were also expected here.

And Steffi Graf has already announced that she is "gunning for the Australian Open," said McNamee.

New balls will be in use in the tournament which this year drew more than 390,000 people to the sleek Melbourne Park stadium.

McNamee said the new balls have been specially developed by Slazenger to cope with the Rebound Ace surface and will not fluff up like last year's balls which were criticised as being too heavy and too slow.

Monaco maintain pressure on leaders

PARIS (AFP) — A goal from striker David Trezeguet gave the 1997 champions Monaco a vital 1-0 win over Bastia in the French championship on Tuesday — taking them to within three points of leaders Metz who play on Wednesday.

In Tuesday's other match the 1996 champions Aux-

erre won 3-2 away at bottom club Cannes with summer signing Yann Lachuer scoring two of their goals.

Monaco captain John Collins missed their easiest chance of the night slicing his 15 yard effort wide with just the keeper to beat.

Auxerre, who have also recovered from an inconsis-

tent start, scored three splendid goals against a Cannes side that put up some spirited resistance.

Lachuer, who signed from French championship newcomers Chateauroux in the close season, scored the best of the night slipping the ball home after playing a neat 1-2 with newly called up French squad striker Stephane Guivarch.

Metz can restore their six point advantage over Monaco if they beat lowly Le Havre at home on Wednesday while Paris Saint Germain, a point ahead of Monaco, play host to Guingamp.

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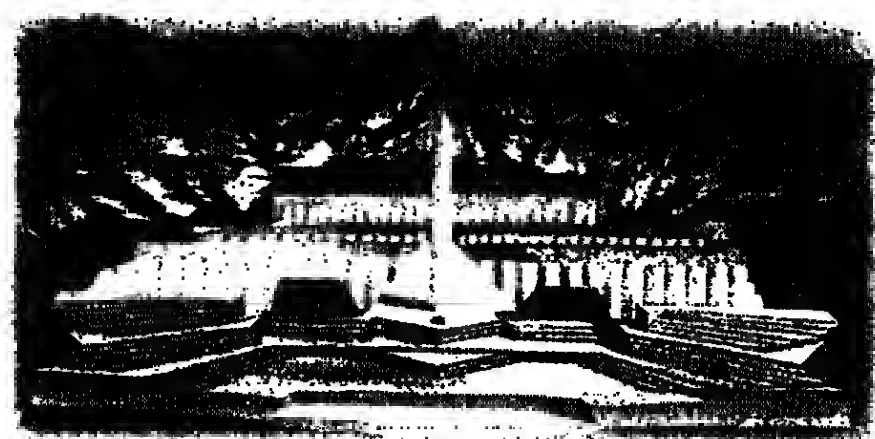
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